JOHNSON FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

Hillsboro Jury Takes but Few Minutes to Find First-Degree Verdict.

ELMER PERDUE VICTIM

Killed After Quarrel Over Timber Claim Which Johnson Had Shown to Perdue—Prisoner Maintained Self-Defense.

HILLSBORO, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Guilty of murder in the first degree was the verdict returned early this evening in the case of Walter Montgomery Johnson, accused of the murder of Elmer Perdue, in a lonely cabin near Timber, this county, during the night of July 3, this year.

The jury received its charge from Judge McBride at 5:30 this evening, retiring then for supper, and at 6:30 began deliberating on the fate of the prisoner and at 7:26 the jury announced that an agreement had been reached, and court was reconvened. Each of the 12 jurymen was polled and each acquiesced in the finding of the verdict. The jury was back in the court room 1 hour and 56 minutes after receiving instructions.

Prisoner Shows No Emotion.

The prisoner received the verdict with no display of emotion. Judge McBride set Monday for hearing motions for appeal and for passing sentence.

Johnson's trial lasted three days. The session last evening was devoted to the interview of Walter Johnson by Deputy District Attorney Thomas H. Tongue, which was taken in shorthand the next day after Johnson was arrested for Perdue's murder, and placed in the Hillsboro County Jail. But one witness was sworn today. Brice Wilson, of Timber, swore that he and two of the jurors examined the cabin for bullet holes, but found none. The argument of counsel for the defense was the most eloquent heard in the courtroom since the time that August Wachline was tried for the murder of John D. Ledrick, a Cornelius farmer.

Young Attorney's Plea Eloquent.

W. G. Hare, a son of Hon. W. D. Hare, associated with his partner, George R. Bagley, made his maiden plea in a murder case, and he covered the case from every standpoint of advantage for the prisoner. He argued that Johnson was not a quick thinker and that after he had killed Perdue, as a result of a quarrel, he was in a chaotic state of mind and that it did not occur to him to surrender to the authorities; that he finally concluded to cover the evidence of the killing and being in hard circumstances, took the money he knew Perdue had on his person, secreted the body and left for Portland.

George G. Bagley dwelt upon the fact that Johnson had located Perdue on the timber land afterward thrown up by Perdue, and said that Perdue doubtless was angry at not finding what he had gone after. He attributed Johnson's actions after the killing to his confusion after taking human life, if even only in self-defense, and concluded that his only thought was to get away from the scene of the tragedy.

History of the Crime.

Walter Johnson, 28 years old, and for many years a resident of Washington County, was a son of the late Charles Johnson, who at one time ran a saloon at Cornelius and later conducted a hopyard at Gaston. He married a daughter of Riley Thomas, of near Glenwood, and the two moved to Portland to reside. At that city Johnson and his wife led a precarious existence for a number of years. Johnson occasionally tended bar in a Waterstreet saloon and did other little jobs to make a living. He was prodigal with his money and did not get along very well. He finally took to locating men on timber tracts in the Nehalem country. On June 30 he started for North Washington County with a party of eight men, among whom was Elmer Perdue, of whose antecedents not a word has been learned, but who is supposed to have come from North Carolina.

They reached the Buxton section the next morning. All of the party but Johnson and Perdue came out on July 2 and these two remained ostensibly to look at some more timber. It appears that on June 29, before starting, Johnson had filed Perdue on an 80-acre tract which did not prove satisfactory upon inspection to the claimant, and this was later cancelled. The dead man and Johnson went to the Burgholzer cabin, which was deserted, and slept there on the night of July 2. In the morning, Johnson killed Perdue, robbed his body of $140 and hid the remains in a deep gulch below the cabin and fled to Portland. He was apprehended about two weeks later and made a complete confession, alleging that he and Perdue had quarreled; that Perdue had called him a vile name and reached for his gun, whereupon he shot his companion.

Throws Away Victim's Watch.

Johnson went to Portland and later threw away the watch and purse, but told the officers where they would be found. In this instance Johnson told the truth and the articles were found as he directed.

Johnson has always maintained that they quarreled and that he killed Perdue to save his own life. The medical evidence does not bear out particularly strong that Perdue was shot, and the state has contended all along that the killing was accomplished by the use of an iron bar made from a wagon tire. This instrument was found by the officials at the cabin. It had been formed into a support for a timber faller's board and had two short spurs on either end. This iron was found encrusted with hair and blood, but no chemical analysis was made showing that it was the blood of a human. The two physicians for the state positively gave it as their opinion that a bullet could not have so extensively crushed the skull, which was badly smashed in at the base, and the fact that no hole was found in the skull except at the base was considered a strong point by the state.

Wife Refuses to See Prisoner.

District Attorney E. B. Tongue made the final plea for the state, and asked conviction on the grounds that Johnson's motive was robbery, and that his contention of a quarrel was only a conceived defense.

Johnson's mother has been a constant attendant at the trial, coming from her home at Lents. His wife and child also have been in the city during the court's proceedings. The wife, however, has steadfastly refused to see the prisoner or to talk with him. This attitude she has maintained ever since Johnson's arrest. Since that time she has been living with her parents, who are very worthy settlers in the Glenwood district. The child, which is about two years old, was taken in to see the father last evening.

BAD-CHECK MAN IN JAIL

C. B. Meyers Dupes Vancouver Merchants and Is Arrested.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Charles B. Myers, alias J. Killdon, was arrested on a forgery charge this afternoon at 5 o'clock by Officer McFarlane, just as he was boarding the ferry in company with a woman to go to Portland. Myers passed a check for $76.25 on C. D. Hayes Company, forging the name of A. B. Rector, contractor here, for whom he used to drive team. Myers was taken to jail.

This afternoon, in company with the woman, Myers went to nearly every large store in the city and attempted to cash a check for $40. At Morris Josefitz's store he bought a bill of goods and offered the check in payment. Josefitz, wishing to be on the safe side, told Myers to wait while he got the check cashed at the bank. While the merchant was at the bank Myers disappeared. Josefitz telephoned the police, who set to work at once, but before Myers was arrested he had cashed a check for $76.25 at the Hayes store. He had bought himself a $7 pair of patent leather shoes and a wardrobe for the woman. When arrested the woman gave back all the goods she had secured and the patent leather shoes were taken off Myers' feet, and he is now in jail without shoes. Myers had enough money to make good the amount he got in change. He claims to be an ex-soldier, age 31. His description taken by the police is: Height, 5 feet 11 inches; weight, 180 pounds; large nose, rough face, dark brown hair high on his forehead; wears dark suit, light tan overcoat.

About two months ago Myers hired a rig from Martin Connley and forged Connley's name to a small check. He was caught, but sold his watch and overcoat to pay his debts, and Connley did not prosecute him.

CAME TO OREGON IN 1850.

Roderick R. Thomas, Deceased.

MOLALLA, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Roderick R. Thomas, who died in this city December 10, was born in Vanceburg, Ky., January 26, 1831. He came to Oregon in 1850, and died on he donation land claim he took up in 1852. He married Elizabeth T. Bell, in September 1855, who survives him. Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas. They are Dr. J. W. Thomas, of Molalla, and C. H. B. Thomas, of Portland.

HOFER'S CIGARS COST $2

Salem Alderman Treats His Friends After Election.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Expense statements filed by candidates at the recent city election, as required by the corrupt practices act, show that very little money was spent in the campaign.

Colonel E. Hofer, who was elected Alderman and who is talked of as an aspirant for the Governorship, filed a statement saying that his only expenditure was $2 for a box of cigars after election and that this was not with a view to influencing the attitude of any person toward him as a candidate for Alderman "or for any other office."

NEW CARS FOR SALEM LINE

Second Lot of Passenger Equipment Arrives From Ohio.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—A second lot of new passenger equipment has just been received by the Oregon Electric Railway, and will be put into service between here and Portland immediately. The new cars are similar to those received a week or so ago, and are built in Ohio.

In addition to passenger cars, the new equipment includes two baggage-express cars, which are the first to be put into service on an electric road in Oregon.

FRUIT MEN AFTER WATER

White Salmon Growers Form Irrigation Bonding District.

WHITE SALMON, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—The election to form the White Salmon irrigation bonding district was held today in White Salmon and carried, 60 votes for and 5 against. The directors elected are: J. P. Humphrey, R. Latterbach and John G. Wyers. The district contains about 2500 acres of the finest fruit and berry land in the valley.

Muster Artillery Company Dec. 23.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Captain Abercrombie received notice today from Adjutant-General Finzer that Colonel Jackson, Inspector-General of the Oregon National Guard, has been detailed to inspect and muster First Company, Coast Artillery Corps, of this city on Wednesday, December 23.

Each Side Takes Game.

SILVERTON, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Two exciting games of basketball were played here last night between Silverton and Monmouth teams. In the girls' contest Monmouth won, 11 to 7, while the Silverton boys won over the Monmouth lads, 22 to 9.

GRAY'S GREAT REMOVAL SALE

Is now on full blast. The gentlemen of Portland appreciate and are responding to this rare opportunity to secure the famous Chesterfield clothes at such small cost. Work begins Monday morning on our new home of Chesterfield clothes, corner Fourth and Morrison Streets, and we shall have but a short time in which to close out the $40,000 stock of fine clothing which we now have on hand. It is our desire to open the new store, which will be the handsomest exclusive clothes store in America, with an entire new stock. To do this it is necessary for us to make the following great price reductions:

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$20.00 Suits	$14.25
$22.50 Suits	$15.50
$25.00 Suits	$18.50
$30.00 Suits	$22.50
$35.00 Suits	$25.50
$40.00 Suits	$29.50
$45.00 Suits	$34.50
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$20 Values	$15.00
$25 Values	$19.00
$30 Values	$23.50
$35 Values	$26.50
$40 Values	$29.50
$50 Values	$39.50
$60 Values	$45.00

CHESTERFIELD SUITS
BLACK AND BLUE

$22.50 Values	$16.50
$25.00 Values	$19.00
$30.00 Values	$23.50
$35.00 Values	$26.50
$40.00 Values	$29.50
$45.00 Values	$34.50

Sale includes Trousers, Smoking Jackets, Bath Robes, Full Dress and Tuxedo Suits. Take advantage of this great opportunity.

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GOVERNOR GIVES NO OATH

WASHINGTON LAWS REQUIRE NO SUCH FORMALITY.

Justice Fullerton Throws Some Light on Complex Situation Due to Cosgrove's Illness.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Washington laws contain no provision for a Governor-elect qualifying, according to statements made here today by Mark A. Fullerton, Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court. Judge Fullerton visited the offices of the Secretary of State and Governor in a vain effort to discover if any Governor had filed a written oath of office or bond. The Judge stated that he had searched the state laws and had nowhere found any legal provision requiring a Governor to take an oath or to do any specific act to qualify for office.

Pressed for a further expression of opinion, Judge Fullerton declined to discuss the matter for the stated reason the question might probably later come before the Supreme Court for determination.

The Judge's statements have occasioned a belief here that Mead cannot hold over, if Cosgrove fails to be here in January to take office, and in the event of Cosgrove's absence, Hay and not Mead will perform the executive duties.

QUITS COURTROOM ON RUN

Man Who Refuses to Pay Alimony Now in Contempt.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Judge R. B. Albertson, in the Superior Court, had just directed that an order be prepared committing C. A. Russell to the County Jail for contempt, when Russell broke from the courtroom and ran from the courthouse, hotly pursued by P. W. Willett, attorney for Russell's wife. He escaped, however, and has not been recaptured.

Russell was brought into court on the contempt charge because he failed to pay alimony to his wife, as the court ordered, while divorce proceedings were pending.

CITY PLANS NEW SCHOOL

La Grande Taxpayers Urge District Directors to Issue Bonds.

LA GRANDE, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—La Grande is to have a splendid modern central school building which will substitute for the present cramped and inadequate quarters. At the school meeting today, when the tax levy was fixed at eight mills for the next year, provisions were made for securing tax money to pay interest on the necessary bonds should the issue be made before next year.

The taxpayers asked for a school building and a petition is about to be sent to the Board.

Contest Promised in Astoria.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—The official canvass of the vote cast at the city election on Wednesday was made today and the only change was that the majority of F. J. Carney in the contest for Councilman from the First Ward against Fred Karinen was reduced from four votes to one. While no action has yet been taken the announcement was made this afternoon that Karinen will contest Carney's election on the ground that three ballots, which were rejected by the judges of election on account of being improperly marked, should have been counted.

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