

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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FRIDAY - - - MARCH 29, 1895

MAKE PUNISHMENT CERTAIN.

There is a moral conveyed in the killing of the murdered Blanck, near Seattle that the courts would do well to heed, and that is to administer justice with certainty and celerity. Blanck had been convicted of a cold-blooded murder, and had been sentenced to be hanged. The date for his final taking-off had been put in the remote future, with the evident intent of permitting the criminal to die of old age, or to at least give him such an opportunity as that which he took advantage of to regain his liberty. The law wisely provides every possible safeguard for the protection of every individual accused of crime, so that the innocent may not suffer. When this is done, all that is required is done, and when the accused is found guilty beyond the shadow of a doubt, as in Blanck's case, the machinery of the law should move speedily to the criminal's taking off.

We remember the situation in Carson City, Nevada, (then Utah) in the winter and spring of 1860. There were no courts in the district comprised of the counties of St. Mary's, Humboldt and Carson, which comprised the present state of Nevada. The father of the writer was on the bench in Utah at the time, and was assigned to this district. Court was opened in April and several murderers were tried, promptly convicted and sentenced; but owing to lack of jail and the action of sympathizers, each criminal in turn escaped. After two or three occasions of this kind, a man named Kerr was arrested, charged with killing two immigrants. The charge was proved, confessed by the prisoner, and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty Wednesday afternoon. He was sentenced to be hanged the next morning between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock, and he was hanged at 10:15. That was the beginning of an era of law and order, and followed by a vigilance committee stringing up six toughs at Austin, broke up the gang that had for a year terrorized the country.

The law has accomplished its purpose when it has protected the innocent and punished the guilty, and only then. Sure and speedy punishment alone will prevent crime, or at least put the criminal convicted out of the way, and cut off his power for doing further evil.

HE IS MISTAKEN.

The Dalles people are going wild over the prospect of the D. P. & A. N. Co. that owns the steamers Regulator and Dalles City, proposing to sell out to the O. R. & N. As for us, we look on complacently, and rather hope the railroad monopoly will get the line and make their down as it is above. The fact of the business is, the people of The Dalles care little for the interests of other section than their own. If they can have an open river they are willing apparently for the river to be closed for every other section; and for this reason we are inclined to favor the O. R. & N. monopoly so that we can have The Dalles' influence for an open river above, as well as below that city. — Arlington Record.

Brother Johns is usually fair-minded, impartial and just in all his criticisms; but in the above article he makes a sad mistake. While it is true that The Dalles has more interest in the removal of obstructions at the Cascades than any point above, it is not true that she is willing to see the balance of the river closed. There is not a business man in the city but that desires to see the Columbia open to navigation clear to the British Columbia line. There is not a citizen of The Dalles who is not deeply interested in the overcoming of the obstructions to navigation near here. It is of more importance to us, perhaps, to have the river open below, but it is still of vast importance that it be opened above. If Brother Johns will suggest anything that the people here can do to facilitate the removal of obstructions between Celilo and this point, he will find them willing and anxious to do it.

THE MORAL WAVE.

Many of the women who have been living in recognized houses of ill-repute, taking alarm at the vigorous action of officers, have sought refuge in lodging-houses. Whether they can escape arrest by this move remains to be seen, and doubtless the raiding of that class of lodging-houses will follow after the moral wave has expended its force in other directions. Some of the women are in abject terror over the new situation of affairs. Those who have been provident enough to save money are preparing to leave, while others, and naturally the more numerous class, with

hardly a dollar between themselves and starvation, do not know which way to turn in order to live. The condition of some of these outcast women is pitiful, and it is likely they will have to be cared for through charity, or become public charges.—Oregonian.

There is a whole story told in the first five lines of the above article. It is the history of every city that has attempted to abolish the evil. It exists, and it is going to exist in some form just as long as the world exists. It may be stopped in one place, but it will simply change locations. The authorities and the moralists may well pause before they force the offenders from their haunts in certain districts into the private lodging houses, where their power for evil will be multiplied a hundred times.

Fair has been dead some time, but the stream of children, brevet wives and other claimants for his property shows no signs of decreasing. If each of the claimants proves his case, Fair will be a fair rival in laxity of morals to Shacabac himself, and in prolificness might well shy his castor into the arena with the Barmecide of Damascus. Their name is legion—instead of Fair, and that is where a whole lot of the fighting is going to come in.

Reports from Chicago say that since snowfall in February there has been no precipitation or moisture in the entire region from the eastern slope of the Mississippi valley to the base of the Rocky mountains. The stage of the water in the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois rivers is the lowest on record for this time of the year. The ground is so hard that the farmers cannot turn the soil with the plow. Reports from the winter wheat belt say that the plant is damaged, and if the rain does not come soon the crop will not be over one-half.

Notice.

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 On and after April 1, 1895, the price of horse-shoeing will be \$2 per head in the places of the undersigned.
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