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TUESDAY, - - - JUNE 1, 1897

FISHY OFFICIALS.

Portland detectives, United States officials, policemen, and ex convicts seem to be promiscuously mixed and mingled in the recent sensation sprung concerning the rebbing of the Portland postoffice, which it is alleged was to have taken place. Through the vigilance of Tom Black the scheme was uncovered, then Thrall, the special postal inspector, detective and modern Sherlock Holmes took a hand. The result was that Eppinger, the registry clerk, was arrested. What for nobody seems to know. Black doesn't know, neither does Thrall, nor Grady nor Murphy. Gautier, an ex-convict, told them so; that is he told them that Eppinger had taken Holsapple and a half-dozen other people into a scheme by which they were to find someone whom they could hire to stand Eppinger up and rob him, when the whole job lot was to divide the plunder. Eppinger made a mistake. He ought to have advertised, and let the job to the lowest bidder. Then the officers displayed such remarkable judgment in making the arrest. Instead of waiting for the crime to be attempted, they arrested Eppinger on suspicion that he was contemplating a crime.

As a matter of fact the whole thing smells fishy, and most decidedly "dead fishy" at that. There is no jury on earth that would convict Eppinger of thinking about committing a crime, or Holsapple of being a party to his thoughts, on the testimony of such a man as Gautier.

In the light of the Taffe arrest this one seems to emphasize the fact that the officers are hungry for fees. President McKinley should wield his ax.

THE END REACHED.

The Durrant case bids fair to at last come to an end. Governor Budd, after examining into the matter, has concluded not to interfere, and the sentence of the court will be carried out at Folsom prison Friday, June 11th, at which time Theodore Durrant will be hanged.

It is more than two years since the crime for which he is to die was committed, and every delay, every device that human ingenuity could conceive has been used in his behalf. Concerning his guilt there is not much doubt nor many doubters, and in San Francisco there are probably none. But one thing is as certain as that the heavens are blue, and that is that Theodore Durrant never had a fair trial, or such a trial as he had a right to demand as an American citizen. True, he had twelve persons, the number required by law, but the public sentiment ran so high that those jurors were not free to bring in such a verdict as they saw fit. Had any other verdict been reached the jurors themselves would have been mobbed, and they knew it.

We have never had much doubt but that Durrant killed Blanche Lammont; but the question is, has it ever been proved conclusively enough to justify hanging him for it? In our opinion, no, though had we been on the jury we should have been willing to send him to the penitentiary, but not to take his life, for after all, some of the links in the chain of testimony are very weak.

The Oregonian could not resist the opportunity in commenting on Eppinger's arrest, charged with con-

spiracy to rob the government, to say that Eppinger was appointed at the urgent request of Senator Mitchell. This may or may not be true, but even if correct it does not necessarily prove that Senator Mitchell was in the plot. We have a distinct recollection that many years ago the editor of the Oregonian was appointed collector of customs at Portland through the efforts of Senator Mitchell, but that was not the reason of the subsequent intimate friendship. The Oregonian has done many things since that time that Senator Mitchell neither suggested nor indorsed.

Governor Budd of California having refused to interfere in the Durrant case, it is not probable he will do so in that of Worden, who was one of the Sacramento strikers, and who was convicted of murder, in having caused the death of several people by cutting down a trestle and ditching a train. His execution is set for some time this month, and Worden himself has so little hope of executive clemency that last week he attempted to commit suicide.

The Texas legislature has passed a joint resolution expressing its sentiments on the lynching question. It probably had the ultimate fate of some of its members in view when it unanimously asserted that in its august opinion, lynchings are highly objectionable.

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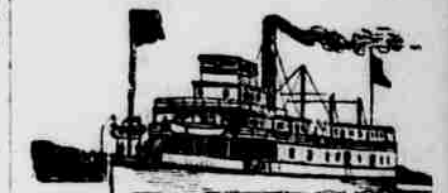
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