

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 28, 1897

OUTRAGEOUS VERDICT.

In the case of Richard Hinkle, accused of murdering Scott, a book agent for the J. K. Gill Company of Portland, about two years ago, for his money, and burning the body, a jury in the circuit court at Canyon City on the 23d returned a verdict of "manslaughter," and the accused was sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary. The verdict of manslaughter was perfectly absurd. If Hinkle was guilty, he was guilty of murder, and if there was not evidence enough to convict him of murder, there was certainly no evidence to convict him of manslaughter, for killing a man and burning the body to conceal the crime do not stand for any form of manslaughter.

In the case of Professor Webster, of Harvard college, who was hanged in 1850 for the murder of Dr. Parkman, while there was a general conviction that Webster had struck Parkman a fatal blow in a fit of anger, nevertheless the proof that he had deliberately tried to destroy the body of his victim was deemed proof of murder, and of murder he was justly convicted and justly executed. But in the case of Hinkle the charge was that he and one Bare murdered Scott for his money and burned the body to conceal the crime. There was no suspicion of a quarrel; the accused were either absolutely innocent or absolutely guilty of murder; and not at all of manslaughter.

Therefore, Bare, who is serving a life sentence for his part in the crime, and Hinkle, who gets off with fifteen years, as guilty of manslaughter, represent a very gross miscarriage of justice, for if there was evidence beyond a doubt that these two men murdered Scott for his money, they were guilty of a most barbarous murder and deserved death; and if there was not sufficient evidence to show beyond a reasonable doubt that they murdered Scott, they should have been acquitted.

This verdict either means that the state has suffered a great wrong done by the jury in convicting of manslaughter a man accused of cold-blooded murder for the purpose of theft, or it means that the accused have been grossly wronged by being found guilty of a crime of which they were not accused and of which they could not have been guilty, since the evidence was not sufficient to satisfy the jury that a murder had been committed. Yet a man accused of killing his victim for money and burning his body is either innocent of murder or guilty of murder; he is not guilty of manslaughter.

There is often a case where it is a nice question whether the accused who is indicted for murder is guilty as indicted, or guilty only of manslaughter; but when the charge is murder and robbery, with burning of the body to conceal the crime, there is no honest justification for a compromise verdict. The law clearly defines the function of the jury, and it has no right to render a verdict that is clearly false.

It is no exaggeration to say that not a few juries of Oregon and Washington, as well as of many other states of the union, find their verdicts, not in accordance with the facts, but in accordance with their feelings.—Oregonian.

WAR WITH SPAIN.

Spain would make a sorry warlike stand against the United States, says the Spokesman-Review. Even now it finds itself hardly able to hold Cuba against the insurgents, and if it went to war with the United

States, it could not hold that island for a month.

Spain has exhausted herself in the present struggle with the rebellious islanders. Her treasury is drained, her financial credit is gone; the enthusiasm of her young men has been chilled by the long struggle, and thousands of her brave sons sent out to support Campos and Weyler will never more behold the sunny slopes of old Castile.

It is not surprising that two administrations at Washington have hesitated to provoke a war with a nation so crippled, so helpless, and yet so proud and defiant. If we go to war with Spain, it will be a war with a desperate nation. The result, of course, cannot be doubted, and outside of Spain, no one in Europe questions that the United States would be victor. But it is to be hoped that the administration will devise some way to end the Cuban struggle without going to war with Spain.

A few weeks ago the editor was taken with a very severe cold that caused him to be in a most miserable condition. It was undoubtedly a bad case of la grippe and recognizing it as dangerous he took immediate steps to bring about a speedy cure. From the advertisement of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the many good recommendations included therein, we concluded to make a first trial of the medicine. To say that it was satisfactory in its results, is putting it very mildly, indeed. It acted like magic and the result was a speedy and permanent cure. We have no hesitancy in recommending this excellent Cough Remedy to anyone afflicted with a cough or cold in any form.—The Banner of Liberty, Libertytown, Maryland. The 25 and 50 cent sizes for sale by Blakeley & Houghton.

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