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FATALLY STABBED

Contractor Uses Knife on Cook at Rail Road Camp.

CLAIMS SELF DEFENSE

Witnesses Give Damaging Evidence Against Contractor Thompson.

A serious stabbing affray occurred at Thompson & Small's railroad camp about 10 miles north of town last Thursday afternoon which resulted in the death of Alec Goericke, the cook, who died 12 hours later. Joe Thompson, one of the contractors, stabbed Goericke in the abdomen with a butcher knife, the blade entering about three inches below and one inch to the left of the navel, and penetrating to the spinal column. The intestines were punctured in several different places.

From evidence adduced at the coroner's inquest it seems that the men became involved in a quarrel over a trivial matter connected with the cook's duties and after a few words passed between them Thompson seized a butcher knife from the cook table and plunged it into Goericke. Thompson at once started for the other camp, and it is said stopped at Clem and telephoned for a doctor to come from Condon. Later another call was sent in stating that the man was seriously injured and Doctors Wood and Kennedy went to the camp. They found the man in a serious condition and there being no conveniences for giving him proper care at the camp they had him removed to town, arriving here shortly before midnight. An effort was then made to replace the protruding intestines but the man's condition grew so serious that it was given up and death ensued while the patient was yet on the operating table. A warrant was issued by Justice Neale for the arrest of Thompson and the sheriff went out early next morning, finding Thompson in bed at his camp near Clem. He was brought to town and lodged in jail.

In the absence of coroner Luna, who was supposed to be in Arkansas, Justice Neale empaneled a jury to investigate the matter early Friday morning but delays arising it was 10 o'clock at night when they were ready to proceed with the autopsy. Then something happened. Coroner Luna suddenly put in an appearance and there was a conflict of authority. He claimed the right to take charge of the body and this brought on a tangle which lasted until 10 a. m. Saturday. Then Dr. Wood performed the autopsy with Dr. Whidby, of Fossil, present as a witness. In the afternoon the jury heard the testimony of Doctors Kennedy, Wood, Whidby and later that of Mr. Small, partner of Mr. Thompson and a man named Snyder who witnessed a portion of the affair.

A short time before Goericke died he made a sworn statement of the occurrence of which the following is a copy:

"I, Alec Goericke, 31 years old duly sworn depose and say:

"It was just after dinner today. I was cutting meat for the second table and Joe Thompson came in and made a roar about putting barrels under the roof to catch rain

water, and I told him I had some barrels there all ready and then Thompson said: 'You G—d—s— — b—' and I turned around from my table and at that time I had my butcher knife in my hand and as soon as Thompson saw I had turned around he grabbed another big knife and in that time I laid mine down and he commenced to work with his knife at me. I told him several times to be quiet and let it alone but he wouldn't do it until at last he stabbed me with that knife. I was not armed with any knife or anything else when he stabbed me. I got that fresh cut on my hand when I was trying to hold him off. Thompson stabbed me in the stomach. This happened at Thompson & Small's railroad camp, No. 1, in Gilliam county Oregon, on Dec. 29, 1904.

(Signed) ALEC GOERICKE.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of Dec., 1904.

G. L. NEALE, J. P.

The testimony of Mr. Small was largely corroborative of Goericke's statement up to the point where Thompson grasped the knife and then he left the tent without seeing the blow struck which cost Goericke his life. Snyder told practically the same story only that he did not witness the start of the trouble. He claimed to have seen Thompson stab the other, however, and stated that Goericke was not armed. All three of the physicians present at the autopsy agreed that the wound was sufficient to cause death and stated that death was caused directly by hemorrhage and shock. The jury returned a verdict that Goericke came to his death by a knife wound at the hands of Joe Thompson, and that the act was malicious and unwarranted. Deputy District Attorney Collier, of Fossil who represented the State, lodged a complaint of manslaughter against the defendant and he was held to the grand jury in the sum of \$7500. The bond has not yet been furnished and Thompson is still in jail. Two witnesses for the state, Snyder and Smith, are being held in jail in default of \$750 bond which they have not yet been able to furnish.

Smith is said to be an important witness for the state although his sworn statement has not yet been made. He was assistant cook at the camp and claims to have seen all the trouble. His story is that Thompson attacked the cook while the latter was unarmed and begging for his life. Mr. Collier is expected today to take Smith's testimony.

Bowerman & Snover, the well known attorneys have been retained by the defendant and are putting up an able fight for their client.

Mr. Thompson was seen by a GLOBE reporter Saturday but aside from stating that he was forced to use the knife in self defense in repulsing the attack of a larger man, he declined to make any statement.

When Smith's story became known around town on Tuesday it caused considerable feeling against Thompson and expressions of disapproval of his release on bonds were general. This feeling took form later in a petition to the committing magistrate asking him to hold Thompson without bonds.

Mrs. Alma Portwood, of Eightmile, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. E. G. Merrifield, during the holidays.

PORT ARTHUR FALLS

Nogi Makes Handsome New Years' Gift to Mikado.

SURRENDER MAY END WAR

Japan Will Offer Liberal Terms Russia Threatened With Trouble at Home.

Port Arthur has fallen. After almost eleven months of incessant battering on the well-nigh impregnable stronghold the Japanese forces under General Nogi have succeeded in wearing out the strength and determination of their powerful enemy and on New Years day General Nogi enjoyed the pleasure of transmitting to the mikado the note of General Strossel praying for terms of surrender. The Japanese seem disposed to treat their vanquished foes magnanimously and the officers will be sent home on parole while the privates will be held for the present as prisoners of war. It is believed that the fall of Port Arthur may bring the war to a close, Japan having expressed a willingness to grant liberal terms to her big antagonist. Russia is said to be on the eve of a revolution at home and this may help to bring about early negotiations for peace.

"Do You Know?"

Mr. J. B. McCowell and Chas. C. Pyle late of the Margarita Fischer Company, have finally consented to present their funny face comedy, "Do You Know?" at the Condon opera house two nights commencing Tuesday evening, January 10, 1905. This play will be for the benefit



of the public school library and it should be well patronized.

Messrs McCowell and Pyle will play the leading parts and they will be ably supported by Condon's best dramatic talent. Judging from the rehearsals, the management can safely guarantee the theatrical event of the season. This is an easy way and will prove a most entertaining way for everyone to help the public school library—a most worthy cause.

Admission 75, 50 and 25 cents. Reserved seats will be on sale at the Condon Pharmacy.

They Didn't Play.

The foot ball game billed for last Saturday between Fossil and Condon did not materialize. The Fossil boys came over all right but the long ride seemed to give them cold feet and they refused to play ball. The boys had a fair record from the previous week and it seemed they preferred to keep that rather than to tackle the same old, rough, husky proposition which they had gone up against in their former tussle with the Condon boys. After the game was declared off a foot race was arranged between Bob Cantwell the fleet footed Fossil sprinter, and Jerry Hartshorn. Jerry does not claim to be much of a runner but he has an aggravating habit of always getting out ahead of the other fellow—if he gets started—and as is his usual custom, he loped out ahead of Cantwell in a slow canter. Fossil is a pretty, nice little town, and the boys who live there are all right but the Condon kids complain that as long as they will not play foot ball and cannot run foot races there is not much fun playing with them.

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G. E. WASSON