



SHERIFF HY. ALDERMAN KILLS HIMSELF.

Shoots Himself Owing to Financial Troubles.

Tillamook people were shocked on Sunday morning when they heard the news that Sheriff H. H. Alderman had killed himself by placing the muzzle of a revolver in his mouth and discharging the weapon, which killed him instantly and without a struggle. The deed was committed in the loft of his barn. When it became known that Mr. Alderman was short in his accounts not a few persons appeared to have a presentiment that he would kill himself, and this proved only too true. For several weeks previous he was a very sick man, but was able to be out a little a few days before his death, but he was mentally distressed and physically unwell, no doubt brought about on account of the shortage in his accounts. What appeared to trouble him most was breaking the news to his wife of the shortage, who did not know of that until Sunday afternoon. What took place after Alderman returned home at five o'clock on Saturday evening is better told by the witnesses at the inquest.

It seems that Friday and Saturday Mr. Alderman showed great affection for his daughter, Pauline, who is 11 years of age, for he fondled and kissed her again and again. The mental strain and with the fear of disgrace staring him in the face on Saturday night, it was too much for his weak condition, so Sunday morning he could stand it no longer and decided to take his own life. Before he did so, however, he wrote a kind and loving note to his wife saying what he was about to do, acknowledged that he had done wrong and asked her to forgive him. This was placed in Mrs. Alderman's purse, where it was discovered later.

The Inquest.

An inquest was held on Sunday morning by Coroner C. E. Reynolds, when J. E. Tuttle, H. Davis, W. T. Kimball, W. T. Newcome, Jas. A. Richardson and E. D. Snodgrass were sworn in as jurors, when the following evidence was taken: D. C. Pierce said about eight o'clock on Sunday morning Miss Glasier came over and asked him to come over to Alderman's house. He went right over, and went into the house. The girl met him and told him he would have to go out to the barn. She said she looked up into the top of the barn and she thought something was wrong with Mr. Alderman. She did not say why she thought so. Witness went to the barn and found Alderman just as he was when the jury came to the barn, with a revolver between his legs. His hat was lying near the stairs when he went up. He walked up to him, squatted down and put his hand on his and found he was dead, and a revolver lying between his legs. He then turned round and went down stairs. The upper barn door was open and the lower inside door was open.

Dr. I. M. Smith said from appearance would say that Alderman shot himself, shooting himself in the mouth. He was satisfied that the muzzle of the revolver was placed in his mouth.

Ed. Walker said Mrs. Alderman phoned over to know if they had seen Henry go up town that morning. That was about eight o'clock. They told her they had not and hung up the receiver. They received another phone right away for him to come over as quick as possible. He went over and met Mr. Pierce in the yard. Pierce had discovered the dead body. He went up stairs in the barn and saw the body. He saw Mrs. Alderman in the yard, she was in a kind of hysterics. He also saw Mamie Glasier there. They said nothing to him. Alderman was lying on his back with his hands over his body and the revolver was between his legs. The blood was issuing out of his mouth and nose. The hands were cold but the body was still warm.

Mamie Glasier said she had been at H. H. Alderman's since September, staying there and going to school. She was not up when Mr. Alderman got up that morning. He called her about half past seven. When she came down he was gone. It was about half an hour after he called her when she came down. That was about 8 o'clock. There was nothing in his manner suspicious that morning. He was nervous on Saturday. He just said "Mamie" when he called her, just as he always did. Mrs. Alderman was not up when witness got up. She gave the alarm when she found Mr. Alderman was gone. He was not in the house when they got breakfast and they

thought maybe he was at Mr. Hays as as they had a sick boy. She went out to the barn to milk and found blood on the lower floor. That was what scared the witness. She then notified Mrs. Alderman and she told her to go over and see Mr. Pierce and tell him to come over, and then returned to the house. She did not hear any noise at the barn before going to Pierce's. Mr. Alderman went to bed before she did the night before. He was about like he had been, but not feeling so well. He had no visitors the previous night that she knew of. She did not think he went out on the street last night after supper. She did not remember what time he went to bed, but thought it was quite early, before 8 o'clock. At the barn she went up stairs and saw Mr. Alderman's body. She just went far enough to see.

W. B. Alderman said he was the brother of H. H. Alderman. He saw him last the previous night, when he took him home in a buggy. His brother had never said anything to make him think he would kill himself. Witness did not know that he was in any trouble about being short in his books as sheriff till Friday night, when H. T. Botts sent for him to come down. He was told by him there was a considerable shortage. Botts thought that his brother ought to be watched and that he ought to stay with him that night. He went down for that purpose and found them both in bed. He did not call them up. He had more talk with him Saturday. Took him up town and brought him back in the afternoon. Witness did not think it necessary to have him watched to prevent his committing suicide. They talked over plans for Sunday and he thought everything was all right. He heard him say that he would make his shortage good, but that it would take everything that he had. Mr. Botts talked to him and thought that there might be danger of his brother committing suicide, but witness did not think there was. He talked with his brother going home the previous night, when he seemed to be in better spirits than he had been before and seemed to be cool.

E. W. Stanley, who was deputy sheriff, had never heard Alderman make any expression as to injuring himself as a result of the investigation. Had heard him remark, in comparing other people's calamities, and his own welfare, that before he would stand disgrace of that kind he would blow his brains out. The last time he heard him make such an expression was in connection with Mr. Spaulding, who went insane a year ago. He had heard Alderman make such expressions twice. He admitted Alderman had spoken to him about his books as sheriff and told him he would make them right if there was any shortage and would settle up.

E. D. Hoag also gave evidence, but did not throw any light on the cause of Mr. Alderman taking his life.

H. T. Botts said as deputy district attorney he was informed on Friday that Mr. Alderman was short in his accounts as sheriff to a considerable amount. He examined the reported shortage himself. Just after dinner he called at Mr. Alderman's residence and had him go up town and examine his books, where the shortage appeared. He was in bad condition physically and could not explain the shortage. He claimed to have never taken a dollar wrongfully or intentionally. That the shortage would ruin him, but he would make it good, and said he would bring his receipts and papers next morning and try to explain everything. He brought them the next morning, but could not stay to have them examined. He left them with Mr. Botts. Saturday afternoon he had Alderman brought to his office, and upon consultation with County Judge Conder and Commissioner Parrish it was decided to allow Alderman to furnish bond on Monday. Witness said Alderman was under considerable mental strain over the matter, but always expressed his determination to make his shortage good and was worrying over having to break the news of his shortage to his wife. Botts did not see him after about 5 o'clock Saturday till he saw his dead body on Sunday.

The jury brought in a verdict that the deceased came to his death by shooting himself with a revolver.

The Funeral.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the religious service being held in the Presbyterian church, conducted by the Rev. E. M. Patterson, who delivered a very appropriate discourse, and the interment was in the Bay View cemetery. It was the largest attended funeral in Tillamook, and in which the fraternal orders took a conspicuous part. The Rathbone Sisters and the Ladies' Circle took part in the procession; the Masons and the K. of P.'s had large turn outs, as did also the W. of W. and A. O. U. W., who, with a fraternal spirit, joined forces and walked side by side. The beautiful ritual of the Masonic order was recited at the grave. The church was packed with sympathizing friends, which was not large enough to hold the crowd.

There is not a person in Tillamook but what express their profoundest sympathy for Mrs. Alderman and her daughter in this the hour of their distressing bereavement.

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To Open Indian Lands.

A proposition is before the Indian affairs committee of the house of representatives to open all the Indian reservations to settlement and entry, the property value of the lands to be paid over to the Indians or held in trust for their benefit. The proposition is strongly endorsed by the commissioner of Indian affairs, who thinks that the consent of the Indians should be secured if possible, but if not the action shall be taken anyway. In regard to this a western paper remarks that it suggests the proper settlement of the whole Indian matter and aids: The reservation system was a blunder from the start. The proper method of dealing with the Indian has always been to give him a start and let him work out his own salvation. Given an opportunity, an Indian can earn his own living as well as anybody. The proper opportunity to give him is to make him go to work by the pressure of necessity. Under such pressure the Indian is likely to develop into a fairly good citizen. There are numbers of them who have done so under precisely this pressure.

There is no doubt that this is in accord with the opinion of all who have given intelligent consideration to the Indian problem. Justice to the Indian does not require that he be maintained in idleness. The best service that can be done him is to teach him to work and to depend upon his own industry and thrift for a living.

\$24,000,000 For Wagon Roads.

There is pending in Congress a bill called the Brownlow bill, introduced by Hon. Walter P. Brownlow, of Tennessee, which appropriates \$24,000,000 as national aid for the building of wagon roads. This sum is to be available at the rate of \$8,000,000 a year; is to be divided according to the population of the different States, but no State is to receive less than \$250,000. Every State receiving National aid must appropriate and spend a like amount.

The asserted growth of sentiment in favor of the measure has been chiefly due to the situation and extension of the rural free mail delivery system, which has brought the disadvantages of poor roads home to the farmers and other country dwellers. Applications for the extension of the free rural delivery system are being refused by the Post Office authorities on account of the roads, and the disappointed communities demand their improvement. These demands are so in excess of the ability of the local boards to respond to that for a year past Highway Commissions all over the country have been putting themselves on record in favor of national aid.

It is claimed on behalf of the bill that the plan of distribution is more equitable than the distribution of some \$32,500,000 a year under the Rivers and Harbors Bill, which goes principally to the seaboard States and to the Mississippi delta.

In support of the Brownlow Bill, as a general measure, attention is called to the fact that France has 23,603 miles of wagon road, which are built and maintained by the nation, and Italy about 5,000 miles, while many of the States of the Union spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in aid of highway improvement.

The California Citrus Union.

The California Citrus union is an organization formed to control the output of oranges and lemons from California. Its object was to handle the selling and shipping so that the market would not be overstocked. Of course, in order to make such a work successful or even possible it was necessary for the growers composing the union to "hang together." Thus the members agreed to deliver their fruit to the officers of the union who, as we understand it, were to pack and market it for them. Certain growers after making a contract with the union to deliver their fruit received what they considered better offers from independent packers and attempted to break their contract by selling wherever they pleased. The union tried to obtain an injunction to prevent these growers from breaking their contract, but the court refuses to grant it. The chief grounds for this refusal are that a suit for damages is the proper way to settle such a case, and that the contract is loose. This contract does not agree to pay a fixed sum at a certain date for the fruit. Of course that would be impossible. The union cannot tell in advance what the fruit will bring hence the court holds that such a contract could not be enforced. This is a matter of great importance not only to California, but to growers in other states where farmers try to combine and sell goods. The difference between such a contract and one made between a canning factory and a grower will be easily seen. In the latter case a fixed price is agreed to before the season opens. In the other case the seller is merely an agent who agrees to get the best he can for the fruit. In California it is thought that this decision will break up the union and injure the market.

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