

RAY COOPER KILLS MAN AT BLAINE.

A Neighborhood Quarrel Leads Up to a Shooting Scrap.

A telephone message was received by Sheriff Crenshaw on Friday afternoon that a murder had been committed at Blaine. Ray Cooper, who committed the deed, asked to have the sheriff and coroner see out, and that he would remain at the Blaine store until they arrived. The sheriff with Coroner Hawk and Attorney H. T. Botts, were soon on their way to the scene of the murder, and when they arrived there they found that Ray Cooper had shot and instantly killed M. Ackers, a German about 45 years of age, who had taken a homestead near that place. The shot that killed Ackers struck him in the face as he was running away, with Lee Cooper running after Ackers or the purpose of taking away the automatic revolver.

An inquest was immediately held when the substance of the evidence was given:

Donald Allison, aged 23 years, who resides at Blaine, Ore., testified as follows:

Question by the Coroner, "Are you acquainted with the deceased?" he replied: "I am. As I came over to Fred Hibbs' he told me that Lee Cooper had blackmailed Mike Ackers, on account of an insult to Mrs. Cooper. Mike told me that he asked Fred Hibbs to give him his advice. Hibbs advised him to go and see a lawyer. He went along with Ackers, and as I understand after they came back Ackers' lawyer advised him to prosecute Lee Cooper for blackmail. Mike told me that he wanted peace and quietness around here."

"This conversation took place about two weeks ago in May. He also stated that if Cooper had anything against him they could take it in court." Questioned by a juror witness said: "The insult took place about May 1st 1914. He was residing at Cooper's at the time. Fred Hibbs came over the day after he came from Portland. I was working at the bark shed and F. Hibbs said: 'I want to tell you something, boys, that Ackers does not want told until he states it. As Ackers has told to everybody he met on the road from McMinnville to his own place.' It would not be any secret very long, and as he told us Ackers came over to him. Ackers came over to Fred Hibbs and told him that he had tried to extort money. It was Lee Cooper who was doing the blackmailing, because Ackers had insulted Mrs. Cooper. Mike Ackers said the day after he moved up to his own place, Lee Cooper and M. Ackers went down to the Browning boy's to get potatoes, and on the way down Lee sat down and told Mike he wanted to talk to him and then asked: 'Why did you insult my mother Mike? He did not understand in what way I was touchier.' Mike said: 'It is a lie I never one it.' Asked, 'Did Mike Ackers tell you that he asked him for money,' witness replied, 'That's the fact.' Questioned whether Mike told him that Lee Cooper had drawn up an article to sign in regard to insulting Mrs. Cooper, witness replied that he had not seen it. The shooting took place that morning, July 31, at 9:30, and when asked what caused the commencement of it that day, witness replied: 'I went over by request of the Coopers the night before to bring Mike over.' Asked, 'What did Cooper want Ackers over for?' to which he replied, 'To face lies that he had been telling.' When I went over this morning, Mike denied what they claimed. Ackers went over with him at 9 o'clock, and went willingly, but he did not see him get the revolver. He then went and got Lee Cooper. Pretty soon all the Coopers came up, Lee Donald, Ray and Mrs. Cooper, neither had a gun. Witness was asked to state what took place between the Coopers and Ackers, and what did Ray and Lee say. Mike was asked if he was coming down, to which he replied: 'No, I am not going down to get beat up.' They came near and Mike leveled the gun at Lee and Ray Cooper and said 'Stand back and don't come a step nearer or I will shoot,' to which Lee Cooper replied, 'I'm not afraid of that gun.' Asked whether Ackers had the gun leveled at any one, witness said he had the gun so he could use it. They quitted down and witness said 'Mike denies this statement.' Mrs. Cooper came up. She called Ackers down about the insulting proposition. An argument took place and Ray started home. Mike still kept the gun leveled on them. Witness did not see the first shot fired, but heard a pistol shot. He was close to Ackers. Ray came up with a rifle. He said 'Hold up your hands.' I looked up and saw Ray with a gun leveled on Mike. He did not know whether Ray went home to get the gun. After Ray came up with the gun it was Mike Ackers who fired the first shot, but Ackers had not fired a shot before that. Ackers fired the first shot and Ray the second. Witness did not know who Ackers shot at, but thought he fired three shots. Ackers ran after he fired the first shot, and the others as he started to run around the house. Ray Cooper fired four times. Asked whether the shooting was done in self defense, witness replied: 'I don't know.' It was the last shot fired by Ray Cooper that killed Mike Ackers. Asked whether he could give any more evidence to throw more light on the subject, said 'I might and might not.'

Mrs. Cooper testified as follows: Early in April, I think about the first week, Ackers knocked at the front door and I went to the door. He enquired if I was Mrs. Cooper. I answered 'Yes.' He asked if I would take him in. I answered that this was not a hotel, but we disliked to turn anyone away in a storm. He said 'I enquired along the road and no one would keep me.' to which witness replied, 'Our accommodations are limited, but we will do what we can tonight.' On the following Saturday it rained all day long, so we had to stay in the house early in the morning. Fred Hibbs came to Allison's house

and said a stranger had come to take the Shoemaker claim. My son on the following Sunday took Ackers to the Hibbs residence, and on Monday over from Hibbs to Ackers claim. On Tuesday morning Ackers said that he was not satisfied with Hibbs' work, and he asked my boy to take him over on the claim on Tuesday. On Wednesday morning I was the first one to get up and was standing with my back to Ackers. I paid no attention to him as I was busy preparing breakfast. He walked up behind me and threw both arms around me and kissed me, as he said 'Give me a kiss.' I was so shocked and could not realize what he meant. I threw my hands up and said 'You had better be kissing your own wife,' and he took hold of both of my hands and held right on to me and said, 'That don't make any difference. Come, give me a kiss,' to which witness answered, 'You had better be kissing your wife.' He went across the room. He still held onto my hands. I gave him one quick push and ran in behind a screen. I said 'Boys get up.' I stayed in there until Ackers went out of doors. I went to my work and nothing more was said. Ackers left that day for Portland and paid \$10.00 deposit on the work for building the cabin, which he paid to Lee. A little sooner my boys came home and the Allison boys spent the evening at the house. Ackers was boarding with witness at that time, but his wife was not with him. One Monday in May the boys had to go away, and no sooner had they left Ackers insulted her again, in about the same way he had done so previously. I talked to Ackers about it, and told him 'I lived with my husband for 30 years and he respected and honored me.' I said also 'Donald is my baby, and if I had no self respect for that boy's sake, I would do nothing so low; and besides you have a wife.' Then he began to ridicule his wife. He said, 'You ought to see her. Wait until you see her and then you won't blame me.' Witness replied, 'I don't believe it and you are a dirty cur.' Questioned whether she informed her boys about the insult, witness replied 'No; I never intended to tell it. I was ashamed to tell it.' It was about one month after the insult that she told her son Lee. He replied 'I can not let this go.' This was on Monday as Ackers was passing through the yard. Asked what occurred after Lee returned home, Ackers begged Lee not to tell it. Lee asked 'What will we do about it? We can do anything, and will only make trouble for him. If he offers money in settlement don't take a penny, as that would be called blackmail. Make him pay you for your work and tell him to keep off your place.' Asked when they threatened to sue Ackers, after a coolness had taken place, witness said, 'We threatened to sue him because he would not pay his bill.' Asked to relate what took place leading up to the time of the killing. Donald told Lee and Ray to come up on Monday. Then Ackers denied that he had talked about blackmailing. Allison came down to the house and had a note from Ackers, and he said 'Mr. Ray Cooper, I want you to come over and have a talk with me. He said there is no use for us to quarrel to please other people.' It was Ackers who wrote the letter. 'I trust that you will regret this favor.' They did not go over for two or three days, and when he did go over he admitted all. I told you he said Hibbs and Allison had quarreled with him, and found out that he had went to town to see an attorney, and he said Ben Allison said that was blackmailing and Hibbs said 'Yes; he ought to see the district attorney.' Question who got the information, Ackers told it to Ray Cooper that Hibbs gave him that advice. 'I apologise 10,000 times for insulting your mother, and I will give her a written statement to that effect. I would cut off my right arm to make it right if I could. I will pay Lee when my wife comes in and there will be nothing more said about it,' was what Ackers said. In a day or two Ben Allison came down to my house and I said: 'Ben, how was this?' Ben Allison said he was a liar, adding 'I never had anything to do with it, only to carry the letter down. He has got to come and face it.' Asked if there was any ill feeling between the witness and Allison, she replied 'None until now.' When witness went up to Ackers' last night Don offered her \$500 back, and said he would have to have \$900 or \$1,000 to spare him up. Then Mrs. Allison said we were trying to blackmail Mike. After further conversation Ray stepped up and said some one had lied on his mother, addressing Ben and Don Allison, and if Ackers had lied he is going to get a licking, and if you have lied, Don Allison, you are going to get a licking, and if you have lied Ben Allison, you are going to get a licking. Ben Allison said 'Nobody is going to lick me.' Ray said 'If you have lied on my mother you are going to get a licking.' Ben replied, 'I haven't lied and Ackers has to face it. I will bring him down tomorrow and make him face you people.' Allison went after Ackers of his own accord. About an hour Don Allison came down to our house and asked us to come down. Witness replied, 'We are not going to come up, and if you want us to see Ackers bring him up.' Donald said he won't come down. Lee said, 'Mother we had better go up and talk it over with him.' She said, 'No, Lee, I am not going up.' Lee replied, 'I'll go up and bring him down,' and Lee went and in a few minutes called to Ray, and when the boys went I thought I had better go, because she thought there might be a quarrel. She thought the quarrel was settled as far as she was concerned. When witness reached the cabin Ackers had both boys covered with a revolver. Lee said 'Put down your gun and talk like a man. You are not going to carry a gun. What right have you to carry a gun?' Then they began to ask questions, and Ackers denied everything in regard to blackmailing and that he had never insulted me. Ackers did not put up his gun when requested. When Donald Cooper came he pointed the gun at him and threatened to shoot them all. Ackers denied everything, when Ray said 'Let's go home;

lets not listen to these lies.' Ackers did not try to prevent Ray from going. Lee then asked Ackers, 'Did I or our family ever try to blackmail you and offer to take any money to settle this case?' Ackers raised up his left hand and said Ben Allison is the one that said blackmail. Hibbs said, 'Go for the district Attorney and have him arrested. Witness turned round and said, 'Its up to you again.' Then Ray came back with a gun. He said 'Ackers, drop that gun.' Ackers wheeled and shot at Ray. Lee jumped at Ackers to take the revolver from him. Then he shot at Lee and started to run. They were standing in front of the house all this time. Witness thought two shots had been fired previous to Ray's shooting, but was not positive. Ackers shot at Lee when they were back of the house. When they came around the house in sight, then Ackers turned and shot back, and it was then that Ray shot him. Witness thought Ray fired three times and Ackers four. She thought the killing of Ackers by her son was done in self defence. Witness had never heard Ackers make threats, but she heard that he had.

Mrs. Kate Allison was the next witness. She did not know anything about the case previous to the day of the killing. She considered that Ackers was a dangerous man. Bennie told me that Ackers had a revolver in his pocket. She tried to have him give it up to her, but he said, 'I won't meet that bunch without my revolver.' In the meantime Lee Cooper came and wanted him to go down to the house and he tried to force him to go. Ackers took out his gun and said 'Don't you touch me.' Witness relates what took place when the parties met similar to how the other witnesses testified. She did not know how many shots had been fired previous to Ray Cooper firing. She saw a bullet hole in Lee's pants but did not know whether Ray was shooting in self defense. She never heard Ackers make any threats toward the Cooper family, nor had she heard the Coopers make any threats to Ackers.

Lee Cooper denied that he wrote an article and tried to get Ackers to sign it that he insulted his mother and also denied that he had attempted to get money to settle the difficulty. Had not known Ackers to carry a revolver before. Asked what was the cause of the trouble, witness stated Ackers insulted his mother and would not pay his bills for labor, board and rooms. When asked if his brother shot in self defense, he replied, 'It certainly was.' Witness had not heard Ackers make any threats against his family, only what the Allison boys said, that he was going to put up a sign and if any of the Coopers came on his land he would shoot. He thought Ackers was a dangerous man. Ackers fired the first shot, and witness was not certain who fired the second shot. The last shot killed Ackers. Ackers was a German. He did not think Ackers was a desperado but he was not to be trusted around a woman when she was alone. Asked whether he thought his brother was justified in killing him, he answered 'Yes, sir, I do.' The shot entered the face on the right side of the nose.

The jury brought in a verdict that the deceased came to his death by a gun shot wound fired by Ray Cooper.

Sheriff Crenshaw brought Ray Cooper to the City on Saturday morning, and Justice of the Peace Stanley, bound him over to the grand jury being held on the charge of man slaughter. The bail was placed at \$2,500, which was soon procured and Cooper released from custody.

Notice to Contractors.

Sealed bids addressed to the County Court of Tillamook County, Oregon, for the construction of a machinery warehouse, to be built at Nehalem City, in said county, will be received by the County Court at its office in Tillamook City, Oregon on or before the 15th day of August, 1914, at 10 o'clock a.m. and at that time opened and read.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check made payable to Tillamook County, for an amount equal to 5 per cent of the amount of such bid, which shall be forfeited to the county in case an award is made and the bidder shall fail, neglect or refuse for a period of five days after which the award is made to enter into a contract and file a bond satisfactory to the Court as required by law.

The bids are to cover the construction of a Machinery Warehouse, 40x60 feet for Tillamook County, to be built at Nehalem, Oregon, according to the plans and specifications on file in the office of the County Clerk.

The County Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Dated this 22nd day of July, 1914.

J. C. Holden, County Clerk.

First publication, July, 23rd, 1914.
Last publication, August, 13th, 1914.

Notice to Contractors.

Sealed bids addressed to the County Court of Tillamook County, Oregon, for the proposed improvement of Jim Tompson Creek, on the North Fork of the Nehalem river, in said county, will be received by the County Court at its office in Tillamook City Oregon, on or before the 15th day of August, 1914, at 10 o'clock a.m. and at that time opened and read. Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check made payable to Tillamook County, for an amount equal to 5 per cent of the amount of such bid, which shall be forfeited to the County, in case award is made and the bidder shall fail, neglect or refuse for a period of five days after which the award is made to enter into a contract and file a bond satisfactory to the Court as by law required.

The bids are to cover the excavating and grading of the County road, and building a reinforced concrete bridge and approaches, across Thompson Creek, according to the plans and specifications on file in the office of the County Clerk.

The County Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Dated this 22nd day of July, 1914.

J. C. Holden, County Clerk.

First publication, July, 23rd, 1914.
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