

THAT ASYLUM MURDER.

The Facts in Regard to the Death of J. I. Dodd at the Topeka Asylum.

In a recent issue of the *Advocate* of Jewell county in the Topeka Asylum under suspicious circumstances was reported. In this case as in all others it is very hard to get at the facts, as the attendants are taught that it is their business to know nothing. Five days before this trouble Dr. Duncanson of Xenia, Kas., a patient, was declared cured and ready for discharge. He was formally discharged seven days after the trouble. He writes a long letter to the *Mankato Advocate* detailing the brutal incidents in connection with Dodd's death, from which the following is taken. The men Flint and Cludas were attendants and were supposed to be taking care of the lives of the patients instead of hurrying them into their graves. The Doctor says:

"On Saturday morning, April 11, J. I. Dodd was at breakfast with me, took his medicine without trouble and ate moderately. A little after 9 a. m. I saw Dodd at the northeast hall door rapping heavily and kicking lightly and calling the Doctor to let him out to go home. I tried to get Dodd to go away, telling him Flint would get hold of him soon, but Dodd's mind was not in a condition to be responsible and he refused to take my advice. Soon Flint went up behind Dodd, threw his right arm in front of Dodd's throat, threw Dodd's back onto Flint's right hip and went south on the northeast hall dragging Dodd by the neck into the long hall where he put Dodd into a seat. Dodd soon returned to the door and made more noise. Flint brought Dodd away as before and started west on the long hall toward Dodd's room. After turning west into the long hall Dodd slipped off Flint's hip. I offered to help manage him, but Flint refused help. Flint took Dodd by the throat with Flint's right hand, thrust Dodd's head against the stone wall east of door No. 19, threw Dodd violently to the floor, dropped onto Dodd's breast with his knees with violence and all Flint's weight, slid astride Dodd and choked him with both hands until Dodd's hands fell. Flint allowed Dodd to revive, helped him up, told him to go to his room. Dodd refused. Flint took Dodd over his hip as before and started towards Dodd's room. Dodd slipped off Flint's hip as before and Flint took Dodd by the throat and threw him violently to the floor, jumped onto his breast as before and choked him as before with both hands. Charles Cludas asked Flint to let him take Dodd to his room. Flint told Cludas, "Keep your hands off, I am going to conquer him." Flint again helped Dodd up and tried to drive him to his room. Dodd did not know enough to give up and started to go east. Flint was mad. Flint again took Dodd by the throat, threw him violently to the floor and jumped on Dodd with his knees as before and commenced choking Dodd with both hands as before, but seeing that Dodd could not raise his hands, Flint jumped up, grabbed the back of Dodd's coat collar and dragged him into room 18 back downwards, Dodd's hands dragging on the floor. Flint shut the door and I saw no more of J. I. Dodd. Flint thrust his head out and called Cludas to shut the door. Cludas came from near door No. 20 and locked No. 18. No. 18 could not be locked from the inside. While locking 18 Cludas was called out and did

not return for perhaps ten or fifteen minutes, leaving Flint locked in the cell with Dodd. I stood near the door 18 and listened. There was not a struggle. I heard Flint order Dodd to get up. I heard three heavy blows that sounded like kicks on a man's ribs. I heard a groan full of agony which may have come from Flint when he saw the fatal results of his cruelty. After a few minutes I heard him put his victim onto the bed, then all was quiet a few minutes. Flint could not get out of No. 18 until Cludas returned unlock the door. Cludas attempted to go into No. 18, but Flint pulled the door shut and told Cludas to let Dodd alone awhile. Flint did not bring the doctor at once, but walked to and fro in the long hall looking pale and frightened, and I felt sure he had killed Dodd.

"In all the abuse that Dodd received in my presence he showed no disposition to strike or kick. His efforts were directed to pulling at the cruel hands that were shutting off his breath. It seems most probable his heart was ruptured by Flint jumping on his breast with his knees while the heart was tense with unusual exertion. About a dozen intelligent patients saw Dodd murdered, but not one dared to report anything to Dr. Eastman. They have no confidence in Eastman."

County Attorney Safford of Shawnee county refuses to assist in the prosecution of this man. Governor Morrill refuses to investigate the matter. Superintendent Eastman neglects to require humane treatment of patients. The people should give the whole outfit a vacation.

The Second District Situation.

The following in relation to the Second district fight is taken from the *Paola Times*:

"The dissatisfied Republicans of Douglas and Wyandotte counties threaten to bolt the nomination of Jack Harris for Congress, and as these two counties give the Republican majorities that insure a Republican election the prospect of an election of the opposition warms up many and various candidates. The Populist Congressional convention it will be noticed is called for Ottawa, June 16. The candidates mentioned prominently so far are Judge Little and Judge Burris, of Johnson county, Senator Taylor and M. S. Peters of Wyandotte and various others. It is conceded by all that it would be good politics to nominate a Wyandotte county man and the probabilities are that at the Wyandotte county convention some one will be agreed upon as the Wyandotte county candidate. If this should prove to be a man satisfactory to the Populists of the district, well and good.

"There is one Wyandotte man, who, however, is not known to be a candidate, but who can secure the Populist nomination and the vote of every Populist in the district and who would also make the most creditable Congressman that we know of in the district, as well as the most vigorous campaigner if St. John is not to be considered. We refer to S. H. Snider, Insurance Commissioner under Lewelling's term. He is a man of superior ability, a good campaigner, and is known as one of the ablest Populists of the State and is one of the few Populists who have escaped the criticism of the opposition. We think it would be good politics to select S. H. Snider as our standard bearer in the Second district."

Think of it! Only 25 cents for the *ADVOCATE* until after the election.

"Futures" in Produce and Trade Depression.

The following is taken from correspondence of the *London (Eng.) Post*. It is a plain statement of useful information to all classes of people:

"It has already been shown that freedom of sale has been broken down by the great elevator companies in the United States, and these companies, like all similar institutions, whether in this country or on the continent, are becoming more powerful every day. As they become wealthier the farmers become poorer. These elevator companies are only enabled to carry these large quantities of actual wheat by having the power to sell 'paper futures' against their actual stock, and this consequently forms the basis of the enormous gamble that is hourly taking place, so that these companies practically originate the special market for dealing in 'fictitious' produce, which becomes a source of considerable profit to them by constant manipulations. Some people seem to think that the elevator companies in America are public benefactors, in accumulating for instance 80,000,000 bushels of wheat for the purpose of the option, but they omit to recognize the fact that the holding of such reservoirs of wheat at given points is a constant menace to the trade, and makes possible considerable manipulation of prices by the elevator men who are practically the proprietors of the 'option' markets. The elevator men having secured the bulk of the wheat crops from the farmers, use their power in turn to bewilder the crowd and squeeze the miller and merchant, who want some of this suspended wheat. It is a great mistake to suppose that the elevator men simply work for their real charge; they look for large profits from manipulations during the year, for they can either drop a big pile of wheat on the 'panic' stricken crowd of speculators or stop the natural flow of business with the legitimate trader. It was reported in the *Times* last September that the State Warehouse Commission of Illinois had decided to revoke the license to elevators whose owners trade in grain, in order to break the power of the elevator men to manipulate markets; but the evil must not only be dealt with by the different State governments, but must be taken up as a whole by the federal government, and all assistance should be given by our own and other governments to this end, to check this monstrous system, which affects so largely not only our own national prosperity, but also that of our colonies and of all continental countries.

"In the spring of last year there was no actual shortage of wheat in the world, but the elevator men in America manufactured one by sealing up their elevators, so that mills were rendered idle in close proximity to wheat, and merchants could not obtain the actual article, because a corner had been agreed upon, thereby forcing up values nearly 40 per cent. for a few weeks. This illustrates the power and profit of manipulation. It is estimated that one elevator man alone netted about \$10,000,000 in these few weeks. No producer benefited because his produce had been drained away from him months in advance and before another crop was available. These operators again broke down values almost to the previous level. Such conditions occur periodically wherever there are international option markets, and have been experienced many years in the north of England, where cotton mills have been rendered idle entirely through 'corners' in Liverpool. This means that gamblers can and do stop the wheels of industry, not because of an actual, but of an artificial,

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shortage, to the serious loss of both the spinners and their employes. And this power of manipulation, practicable only by means of this artificial system, is destroying free competition among producers, and is placing manufacturers in the hands of these monopolists. All in turn become their prey, whether producers, manufacturers, merchants, or speculators, because when the actual article is required by the manufacturer or merchant, or is for sale by the producer, they can manipulate the market at will to their own advantage, and thus further upset the calculations of the speculator. In this way a monopoly is created and free competition is broken down, to the serious disadvantage of legitimate trade and *bona fide* speculation."

"Log-Rolling" in Politics.

This term, says *Current Literature*, is an American slang expression for mutual assistance rendered by persons in power to the detriment of the general public. The English phrase, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours," and the Scotch, "Caw me, caw thee," are approximate equivalents. In its original sense log-rolling is a sort of mutual-help festival akin to the quilting-bees and husking-bees. When a backwoodsman cuts down trees, his neighbors help him to roll them away, and in return he helps them with their trees. The phrase was first applied as a metaphor to politics. A and B, for example, Congressmen or Assemblymen, each has a bill to pass. Each agrees to support and vote for the other's bill. They are log-rolling for each other. Furthermore, neither, we will suppose, has any interest or belief in either bill, but wishes to gain the help of the promoters for some scheme of his own. He and the promoters are log-rolling for each other. From politics the phrase has passed over to literature, and has almost superseded the older term "mutual admiration society," as applied to a clique of authors who abuse the confidence of the public by mutual puffery for individual interest.

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