

# THE WHITEHALL TIMES

WHITEHALL, TREMPLEAU COUNTY, WISCONSIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1890. NO. 4

## OLSON LYNCHERS ON TRIAL.

In circuit court here the calendar was cleared last week at Friday afternoon session, except the Preston murder case, of state against Ole Sletto, Ole J. Hanson and Bertha M. Olson, which was taken up Saturday morning. Judge Newman appointed T. F. Frawley, of Eau Claire, to defend the three prisoners, they being unable to employ attorney, though Sletto insisted upon the appointment of E. Q. Nye, of Milwaukee, to defend him, and he was afterward accused by Sletto at the latter's expense. The document presented to the court by Sletto upon his arraignment, in which he made the plea of insanity, was filed by his attorney with the clerk of court as Sletto's defense in trial. This would necessitate the separate trial of Sletto, and at the opening of court Tuesday morning his counsel asked the withdrawal of documents filed, waiving plea of insanity, which was allowed, and the trial proceeded on its merits. Till the adjournment of court Saturday noon the attorneys examined qualifications of jurors and they were excused so rapidly that the court issued a special venire for 100 jurors, with which to start on reassembling Monday afternoon. An amusing incident, contrasting strongly with the sacred atmosphere of an august court of justice, happened in the Saturday forenoon session. The joke was too good to be true or to keep, and came at the expense of Capt. Arnold, of Galesville. A Norwegian juror was being questioned as to his qualifications and failed to get hold of the attorney's interrogation, "Are you acquainted with any of the rioters who attended the lynching of Hans Jacob Olson?" Court was convulsed at the rather indefinite answer, "Well, I know some little 'bout Mooster Arnold, of Galesville."

The special venire of 100 jurymen was gathered from throughout the county, and were on hand at Monday afternoon session. Court was occupied until Tuesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, in getting a jury. The court had excused about 50, who admitted disqualifications, defense had used 33 of their peremptory challenges, and the state 6 of their 12; when the following "good men and true" were selected to the satisfaction of both prosecution and defense: John Quinn, Melvin Bortle, H. A. Field, Robert Hyslop, Carlos Bugboe, John Haytor, N. E. Pratt, John Klimer, I. S. Faraud, Melvin Pottinger, William Moore, and Leroy Bell. The jury can be remarked upon as an intelligent body of men, who will do the justice that the evidence requires.

District Attorney Anderson made the opening statement of the case for the state to the jury, consuming about an hour and touching points which he said would be proved by evidence submitted showing the defendants, Ole Sletto, Ole J. Hanson and Bertha M. Olson, guilty of murder as charged in the indictment brought against them. He said the state would not attempt to prove the prisoners guilty of murder at all hazards, but only to bring justice of the facts in the case to pass by the verdict of an intelligent jury.

The state called G. A. Sly, of Blair, as first witness. On the morning of November 25th, 1889, at about 8 a. m., Ole J. Hanson came to him at Blair and asked if he was justice of the peace, as his father, Hans Jacob Olson, got hung to a tree at his home  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles out on the night before; did not know how it happened, whether it was suicide or not, but he saw no crowd around his home on previous night. Sly reached Olson's about 10 a. m. and found body hanging from tree south of house; limb on which it hung was 11 feet high, and head of man was within foot of limb; end of

rope was wound about body of tree. Witness took charge of body and proceeded with inquest, the details of which have already been made public. A drawing of Olson's house and surroundings was shown in court, which witness recognized as his own, and which he explained to jury. The state produced the rope with which Olson was hung.

Dr. Sonneckson, of Blair, was called and testified that he made examination of body when it was let down from the tree; that death was caused by strangulation.

Henry Hanson, 20 years old, who turned state's evidence, was called. Charles Johnson, on Saturday, November 23d, asked him to go to Olson's home on next day, he understood, as was talked generally in the town of Preston, to run Olson out of the country. Sunday night in company with four other boys, he drove in double seated buggy from Blair to old Baker farm, half a mile from Olson's house, where a crowd of 30 had congregated in the house on the place by previous arrangement; stopped on the way at Peter J. Loga's for a rope. At this house Chas. Johnson, ring-leader, appointed a committee of four, consisting of John McKivergin, Dick Martin, James Nelson and witness, to get Olson from his house, when crowd proceeded. Someone suggested using masks, and handkerchiefs were used by the committee. Crowd proceeded to a pile of wood on way to Olson's, when Ebert Olson produced a jug containing what witness thought was alcohol punch, which was passed around and each took a drink. At the hay stack Ole J. Hanson, Olson's son, came back and informed the crowd that Olson had returned home. Hanson returned home, crowd following a little later. Crowd continued to Olson's, with committee of four in lead, two of whom entered the house and dragged Olson out of bed on to snow-covered ground, with only Olson's shirt on. Olson begged for clothes, which his wife handed out piece by piece, and he put on pants, vest, coat, scarf, mittens, necktie, and boots. Olson was shown the rope by

the crowd, and asked if he would leave the country, to which he replied: "This is my home and I am going to stay here till God calls me away." Olson was then hustled to a tree and a rope adjusted about his neck, other end passed over a limb and rope pulled taut. He was immediately let down and asked, as before, if he would leave the country, and answered in the negative. He was again suspended several feet in air for a few seconds, and then let down, falling helplessly in a heap. Again he was requested to leave the country, and replied, "I can't now, I'm so sick." Olson was then taken back to the house; laid on the floor and asked for a drink, which was given him. As witness came from the house, he heard what he thought was a vote being taken by the crowd, and cries of "Hang him!" though some objected. Witness told that defendant Slotto said, "Let him hang!" when Olson was raised the second time. Eight or ten then entered the house and hurled Olson to the tree, around which about 20 gathered to strangle him up. The rope was put around his neck and the crowd quickly pulled him within a foot of a limb 11 feet from the ground. The rope was attempted to be tied to a post or pig-pon, which it did not reach, so was swung around the base of the tree a few times. Some of the party had fled before this occurred. The crowd thought that someone should be appointed to stay all night with Olson's family, and Ole Slotto and Charles Donsmore volunteered. The crowd quickly dispersed, each going his own way and with little manifestation, as the consequence of their crime began to come over them.

Cross-examination called out the fact that witness understood that the intention of taking a rope with the crowd was to scare Olson out of the country, as it had been talked in Blair the week before. Witness did not suppose that it was intended to kill Olson, though younger members of the party on that night jested about hanging Olson. Charles Johnson spoke to witness on Friday before, saying, "Henry, you will bring a rope, won't you?" Witness swore that while on the way to Olson's on the night of the murder, defendant Ole Slotto said that Olson ought to be hung, because he was such a terror in his family and to the community.

James Nelson, another young man who turned state's evidence, testified substantially as Hanson, adding that he did not notice Ole J. Hanson with the crowd while at the house.

Charles Donsmore, who is charged with riot in the case, was called and corroborated the evidence of the preceding witnesses, so far as he knew. He said no formal vote was taken by the crowd as to whether Olson should be hung or not, but simply excited cries of "Hang him!" to which a few objected. Witness and the defendant Slotto stayed in the house of Olson till the next morning at 3 o'clock. In conversation during the night Slotto said that they had got into a bad job, but said it was better to kill one man than have half a dozen killed or burned out. A meal was prepared by Mrs. Olson, of which her guests partook. Mrs. Olson appeared at times pleased and again sorry concerning her husband's fate. Ole, her son, appeared quite sober.

Yesterday morning Ebert Hanson, the 17 year old son of the murdered man, was called by the prosecution,

and not speaking English an interpreter was allowed. On the day of the lynching he heard his brother Ole say to his mother that a mob was coming to drive his father away, but that she need not be scared. Between the second and third time Olson was strung up, he heard his mother say to the crowd they must either take her husband or herself. He heard the leader address the mob, requesting those who favored hanging to say "Ayo!" Mrs. Olson said she wished the crowd would take her husband away, but not to harm him. He heard cries of "Let's hang him!" from the crowd.

Simon Borgseng, son of the Blair hotel keeper, aged 19 years, who turned state's evidence immediately after the hanging, was called and told the same story of the lynching as other witnesses before him. He was one of the committee of four appointed by Charles Johnson at the place where the crowd gathered, to attend to Olson when they proceeded to his house. He and John McKivergin (one of rioters) went first into the house and found Olson asleep in bed with only his shirt on. Olson offered no resistance and they jerked him out of bed and out of doors on to the snow. Olson asked what it meant, to which someone replied, "We'll show you what it means!" and the rope was produced. In cross-examination the witness said it was the general understanding that Olson would be asked to go, but would not be injured. He also said that he heard no vote taken between the second and third hanging.

The state called E. A. Bjelseth, 18 years old, who was a witness at his father's inquest, and swore that he (Hanson) staid at the barn taking care of stock about an hour while the lynching party was doing its work. Bertha Olson (wife of Olson) swore at the inquest that the mob came on the night of November 24th, between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock, and took Olson out of the house. She knew none of the mob, and did not see her husband after the mob took him from the house the second time.

Ole Bjelseth, of the rioters, aged 20, was called next by the state. Witness met the lynching crowd at the Baker farm and heard defendant Slotto say that a few more persons would join the crowd on a ridge further on toward Olson's. He did not mingle much with the crowd, and was behind the house when the crowd was disposing of Olson. He heard the crowd ask Olson after letting him down the second time, why he spent nights abroad. He answered that the family did not treat him right, and one night locked the door against him and he was compelled to sleep in the hay stack. On cross-examination witness stated that talk of only scaring Olson away was all he heard.

Christian Melby, also rioter, was called by the state. Witness went to Olson's at the request of Charles Johnson and Ole Slotto, the latter asking him to go on the 23d of November, and he met the crowd on the ridge. They were going to make Olson get out.

Peter Erickson, another rioter, was called and testified that at his home on the day before the lynching defendant Sletto asked him to go to Olson's to see if he would promise to mend his ways or to make him leave the country.

Marlus Hanson, rioter, was next called and said that Mrs. Olson told the crowd between the second and last hangings that her husband had "threatened some devils at Blair and Whitehall," and jailing him did no good.

The state then rested. The defense moved that the court dismiss the case, as the state had presented no evidence showing defendants guilty of murder. The motion was immediately over-ruled by Judge Newman. Frawley and Nyo addressed the jury in opening for the defense.

The defense first called defendant Ole J. Hanson, aged 23 years. He was notified at Blair on November 23d that the crowd was coming to Olson's house on the next evening to have Olson leave the country. He testified to his connection with the affair substantially as given by the other witnesses, and additionally that he was occupied at the barn when the crowd was dealing with his father. When the crowd left the witness returned to the house and observed the body of his father hanging from the tree. Defendant Ole Sletto admitted to him when he entered the house that a bad job had been done.

Mrs. Bertha Olson, aged 60, was called. Her son Ole said to her on some day that a crowd was coming to drive her husband away from home, but not injure him. She spoke to the crowd when outside of the house but did not remember her words. Did not remember saying as prosecution witnessed, that she said when Olson lay on the floor in the house, "That is good enough for you, Hans, you have done that to me lots of times." He got supper for two guests who stayed during the night.

The defense did not put Sletto on the witness stand.

The defense called a number of prominent citizens, long residents of Preston, including H. A. Young, County Treasurer H. Thorsgaard, Nils Christanson, Sivert Pederson, Stoner Hanson, and Martha Hanson.

The state called two witnesses in rebuttal of evidence offered by Ole J. Hanson. This closed the testimony in the case.

District Attorney Anderson, on behalf of the state, addressed the jury, occupying 45 minutes in reviewing and impressing the jury with the principal points of evidence.

F. W. Frawley then pleaded to the

jury for nearly two hours exercising his oratorical powers greatly and with a vehemence indicating that he was making a desperate attempt to clear the prisoners.

Court adjourned to 9 a. m. this morning.

At opening of court this morning E. Q. Nyo made a plea of an hour to the jury, appearing in defense particularly of Sletto. He said the state to prove the prisoners guilty of the crime with which they were charged must show in evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendants took the life of deceased from a premeditated design and with malice aforethought. He desired the jury to consider the previous good character of the defendants.

E. C. Higbee made the closing argument for the state in a spirited and concise manner. The plea was worthy of the case on the part of the state.

Judge Newman then charged the jury, stating the law as applied to the case. The Times will publish the judge's charge verbatim next week.

**RIOTERS ARRAIGNED AND FINED**  
The 31 rioters in the lynching affair were arraigned in court at this afternoon session and heard the reading of the information charging them with riot by District Attorney Anderson. The group of rioters ranged from 17 to 45, and rather than though they were a respectable appearing lot. T. F. Frawley addressed the court on behalf of prisoner Charles Johnson, who wished the public to know that the rioters were persons who went to Olson's through sympathy for and confidence in Johnson, and understanding that no lynching was to be committed. Judge Newman remarked on the case and imposed fine of \$100 and costs, amounting to \$107 each, on 30 of the rioters, and \$50 on Ebert Olson, who had been jailed three months before charge of murder was withdrawn. Default of payment would incur imprisonment of six months each. All but four of the rioters have already paid their fines.

A VERDICT REACHED.

against Ole O. Sletto, Ole J. Hanson and Bertha M. Olson of "guilty of murder in the first degree."

Attorney Nyo for prisoners immediately moved for a new trial.

The prisoners Charles Johnson, Ole O. Sletto, Ole J. Hanson, and Bertha M. Olson will receive life sentence in court at 9 o'clock this morning. Thus is the crime of the murder of Hans Jacob Olson avenged and the justice of the law of the great state and commonwealth of Wisconsin satisfied. Neither the town of Preston nor any other of Trempealeau county, it is safe to assume, will care soon again to sacrifice the lives of five human beings as the result of a mob gathered to infract the supreme law of the land.

Peter J. Loga, One of Hans Jacob Olson's Slayors; Suloidea.

Fato has added another victim of the lamentable Preston lynching affair of last November, and murder and suicide are the black crimes in its wake by which the civilization of our county is disgraced. Peter Johnson Loga, one of the rioters, took his life by hanging himself on Monday, the 10th inst. Loga was seen alive last at 11 a. m. at his house about four miles from Blair, when he told his relatives that he was coming to Whitehall. He did not appear at home for supper, or at breakfast Tuesday morning, which aroused the suspicions of the family as to his end; his father also noticed Tuesday morning that a certain piece of rope at the barn was missing. Search was immediately instituted and he was tracked by his brother, Martin Loga, to a hay shed on the old Baker place, where he congregated last November with the mob which brought Hans Jacob Olson to his untimely death. The hay in the shed was about six feet below the beams, one of which the man had reached by swinging up from below, after laying off his overcoat on the hay. He so-

curiously fastened the half inch rope, which was about six feet in length, to a rafter above and made a noose in the other end which he adjusted to his neck. He then gracefully dropped off the beam and suffered a broken neck by force of his weight of about 200 pounds. The body was found in the above condition, and on notification of Justice Sly was taken charge of by him. Loga was about 40 years old and a prominent member of the lynching party, and his sense of guilt probably drove him to self-destruction. He was also one of the state's most important witnesses. He furnished the rope to hang Olson, and was sent by Charles Johnson after the lynching to Mrs. Olson to have her not mention Johnson in connection with the attack.

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March 27, 1890

Johnson's Statement to the Court.

Charles Johnson, the self-confessed leader of the Olson lynching party, wrote a statement of his reasons for fearing injury at the hands of Hans Jacob Olson, the man who was lynched. This statement was read by Johnson's attorney at the time of his sentence. It shows him to have been in mortal fear of injury at Olson's hands. Although it throws no new light on the lynching, it still more directly places upon Mrs. Olson the blame for the circulation of evil reports regarding her husband.

"In the month of November, 1883," says Johnson, "Sam Hanson, oldest son of Hans Jacob Olson, then about 17 years old, came to my house about 9 o'clock in the evening, asking leave to stay and saying that his father wanted to kill him. I asked him how. He says that his father took a fence post to strike him with, saying that he would kill him. I let the boy stay and I sent word to Olson to come to my place, and I would try to help them make up so the boy could go home with his father. Olson did not come at first, but sent Mrs. Olson with the word that if she did not bring the boy home with her he would shoot both her and the boy. But the boy

did not dare to go, and I think the next night Olson came down about bedtime, having his boy Ole with him. He sent him in the house with word, as I understood, for me and his boy Sam to come out, but we did not go out, as Olson was lying with a revolver in his hand outside. I sent word for him to come in, but he did not do so, but kept hanging around my house nights, making noise and disturbance when people were asleep, very much to the fear and distress of my family. Then I told the boy that I could not keep him any longer, and the boy left and went to a neighbor's. The same night Olson came to my house in an awful heat of passion. There was no one in my house but my wife and myself, and I had our baby on my arm. My wife got scared and ran to a neighbor's house. Olson struck me and said he would do me up; he said he carried something that would fix me sometime or other, and I was seized with an awful fear. Soon afterward Olson told Paul Thompson that he was bound to do me up, and God knows that I had never done the man any wrong. I took it to be my duty to protect the boy, as I was then chairman of the town board. Whenever I met Olson on the road he would not speak to me nor look at me, and Olson did not come to my house until in January, 1885.

ASKED JOHNSON TO HELP HIM.

"He came over the evening before he was to have his preliminary examination for attempting to take the lives of a family at Blair. He then wanted me to come to his hearing and help to defend him, which I could not do, as I knew nothing about his case, and as I was under his death sentence I would not dare to have anything to do with him. I have understood that Olson alleged that I was influencing the prosecuting witnesses in that trial, but God knows that I had nothing to do with the witnesses or trial whatever. Prior to the Olson tragedy I have not been to the Olson house but twice in ten years. Once I went with Dan Hagestad and once I went with Peter Loga.

"In March, 1889, Olson came home from state's prison after serving a five years' term. On May 24th following I went to James Hopkin's house and Mrs. Olson was there on her way to the district attorney. She had Olson committed to jail for six months, and she told me that Olson had been fixing his gun and had said that the devil was very glad of the big roast he was going to get, as he (Olson) was going to murder his family and me and four or five other neighbors, and that he would do it so fine that we should not know anything about it until we were lying with our noses up; then he said he would as soon go to state's prison for it, as he had a good time there. Afterwards Ole J. Hanson and Ingebrigt J. Hanson, both sons of Olson, told me the same story that Mrs. Olson told, and the fear I had of him was very much increased, but I tried to keep it from my family.

"In June Mrs. Thompson came to our house and told the whole story to my wife and children and a while after our hired girl told my wife and children that Olson had been saying that it was not too bad that our barn with horses and cattle burned, but that our house with the people in it would soon be apt to burn, and God only knows what distress it caused in my family. I was trying to make them understand that there was nothing to fear, but it was impossible for me to do so.

OLSON'S THREATS TO HIS ENEMIES.

"The turnkey also says that Olson told him that as soon as he would be out of jail he would fix all his enemies, and all the people seemed to have a great fear that when Olson got out of jail he would be apt to do something awful. I asked the district attorney if Olson could not be bound

over for another term, but he said it could not be done, but he was also afraid that Olson would do something very bad when out of jail and we knew he would be out about Nov. 19.

"It worried me so much to see the distress and fear of my invalid wife and five little children that I could neither rest nor take needed sleep. My mind was in a mixed and depressed condition. In the night, about 12 o'clock, my girl Clara, 13 years old, heard somebody open the outside cellar door and come down the steps to the cellar. Her bedroom was right over the cellar steps and she heard him go up the stairs to the pantry door; then she jumped out of her bed and ran into the room where I and my wife slept. I had just gone to sleep. She did not wake me, for fear that I might go out and so he might kill me. She says that he did not come further than the pantry door, and after a while she heard him go out the same way that he came, and she heard him go by our bedroom window in the morning. Clara and Anna went out and found the cellar door ajar, and they saw a big boot track where she heard him go down the road. There was a little snow on the ground and I learned that Olson had been away from home till after 1 o'clock that night, and that he always was away the greater part of the nights, and that he had been saying that he should be worse than ever, and I was told that prominent men had been saying that it would be best that the neighbors would drive him out of the county.

JOHNSON ORGANIZED THE PARTY.

"Thus I came to take a part in organizing a party to scare him out of the county. Neither I nor anybody else had any other object in view, and our purpose was only to scare him away so the people could live in peace. God knows that I had no malice toward Olson or any other person, but I was crazed with fear. Olson would not leave, and then the terrible consequences followed. My counsel advised me to stand trial and gave great encouragement as to the result. But as my health is poor and my mind is so mixed and depressed, I think it would be impossible for me to stand the ordeal of such a trial. I have thus concluded to throw myself on the mercy of the court and pray to God for strength to be able to stand such punishment as it may please the court to mete out to me.

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"While some of the parties who went to the Olson house on the fatal night were afraid of their own lives, and others sympathized with them; my neighbors and many of the young boys went because they sympathized with me and my family, as they knew what distress we were in and they had once had occasion to witness that we had been aroused in the middle of the night, surrounded with flames which consumed most of our property, including our live stock, caused by an incendiary, and they were afraid they would have to witness something similar or still more terrible. But none of us had any murder in our hearts. For all of those I pray the court's mercy to the fullest extent, as they will be brought before the court under the charge of riot."

**THURSDAY MARCH 20 1890**

**MURDERERS FOUR.**

Charles Johnson, Ole O. Sletto, Ole J. Hanson and Bertha M. Olson go to the Penitentiary for life. The last act in the trial of the Preston lynchers of Hans Jacob Olson was

seen in the court room at this place last Friday morning, when the four prisoners above named, guilty of murder in the first degree, received the sentence of the law by Judge Newman, to confinement at hard labor in the state prison at Waupun for the term of their natural lives. The sentence did not seem to affect Johnson or Sletto badly, perhaps because they have hopes that buoyed up their spirits, and Mrs. Olson and her son Ole apparently did not have enough human feeling to admit of the deep affection that such a severe sentence should naturally cause. Johnson and Sletto afterward said that the trial was fair and the verdict all right and they would take the punishment of the law like men. Everybody thinks that the verdict in the case of Mrs. Olson was correct, but the young man, Ole J. Hanson, said he was not satisfied with the verdict and wanted a new trial.

Johnson presented a lengthy statement to the court before the sentence, which The Times will publish on the next week. Sletto only said he did the deed because he feared for the lives of his family and others. Sheriff Boynton and E. S. Hotchkiss, of Independence, took the four prisoners to Waupun Friday afternoon.

**G. N. W. & S. P. TIME TABLE.**

Trains Pass Whitehall as Follows:	
GOING EAST.	GOING WEST
10:58 a. m. Mail and Express. 3:11 p. m.	10:04 a. m. Accommodation. 2:48 p. m.
C. A. EKERK, Agent.	
Trains Pass Blair as Follows:	
GOING EAST.	GOING WEST
11:18 p. m. Mail and Express. 2:51 p. m.	10:49 a. m. Accommodation. 2:56 p. m.
E. S. EKERK, Agent.	

**TREMPEALEAU.**

March 14.—Mrs. E. C. Nettleton went to Chicago Wednesday. U. B. Robertson is able to be out on the streets again. Miss Lottie Pierson returned to Minneapolis Tuesday. The new hall for the Baptist church is expected daily. George G. Gibbs and wife arrived here Saturday morning. Mrs. J. H. Pierson, who was considered dangerously ill last week, is convalescent. Her son, F. G. Pierson, and wife, of Chicago, were called here Tuesday. Sheriff Boynton, of Whitehall, was in this vicinity last week, securing jurors for the Preston lynching case. The young people of this place have organized a christian endeavor society, and hold their first meeting on Tuesday eve last. The C. & N. W. officials made a good selection by appointing W. E. Spaulding as their agent here, in place of J. N. Hankin, deceased. Will has been among us for some time and has made many friends. Petitions have been circulated in our village and town calling for special elections to decide whether the case shall be granted or not. They were pretty generally signed. Mr. Oxenod undertook to cross the river on the 1st Monday, and was unfortunate enough to break through with his team. He was considerably bruised and cut in trying to save himself and horses. On Saturday last, news was received here that Frank Willbur, who with his family left here last fall for Minneapolis, where he took a job riding on a freight train, had met with a sad accident. He was walking along the track when he was struck by the moving cars. His right arm was smashed and had to be amputated two inches below the shoulder.

Circuit court will adjourn to-morrow.

It is rumored that Eleva is to have a newspaper. The snow is fast disappearing, and the sleighing is about whipped. Rev. F. W. Straw preached a funeral sermon in Hild last Saturday. Ed Elkins, treasurer of Trempealeau, made his returns to the county treasurer to-day. The next regular meeting of the W. C. T. U. will be at the Baptist church on Saturday next at 3 p. m. Our local resume of news is omitted to a considerable extent to give place to the report of the murder trial.

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Rev. Em. Christophersen, of Pigeon Falls, will preach at the Baptist church next Sunday, March 16th, at 4 p. m.

Rev. J. H. McMannis, of Neillsville, delivered an excellent temperance lecture at the M. E. church last evening.

John N. Anderson, a tailor, from Galveston, is serving a 60 day sentence in the county jail for assaulting his wife.

Dr. Chr. Christensen, of La Crosse, will visit Whitehall professionally on Friday and Saturday, March 21st and 22d, 1890. 4413

H. J. Bigelow, treasurer of Calodonia, was the first to make his returns to the county treasurer this year. That town has taken the lead in this matter for years.

The treasurer of the Whitehall Fair association has received \$348.76 from the state treasurer, it being the amount due the society from the state under the law of 1880.

Dick McCarty presented two wolf traps to the county clerk for bounty last Saturday. They were captured near his home in Ettrick by himself and trusty hounds.

Aaron Kribbs, treasurer of Gale, made his returns to the county treasurer last Tuesday, being the second on the list, and returning a small percentage of unpaid taxes.

The trial of the Preston lynchers has drawn people from every portion of the county to Whitehall this week. The court room was packed throughout the trial of this notorious case.

Mr. N. T. Lockwood, wife and children, of Oasco, were the guests of his sister-in-law, Mrs. N. Lockwood, in the village this week. They were on their return home from a visit to relatives in Minnesota.

**SITE OF THE LYNCHING**

