

MAY 7, 1909

Genteel Row at C. H.

Portlanders After \$200 Reward Stir up
Natives, With all but Fatal Results.

The County Court's time on Wednesday was taken up by a bunch of Portlanders who came down to beat Chief J. D. Wells out of the \$200 offered for the capture of the court house robbers, Clayton and Davis. But they failed to cut the ice—at least just at that time. The County Court listened to the heated argument and again took the matter under advisement. Just what their decision will be is a matter of conjecture, of course, but if they study one minute or ten days while their judicial apparatus is working just right they will conclude that the entire bunch from Portland should have been captured at the time Clayton and Davis were landed and convicted at the same time.

Wednesday's session was a warm number—364 in the shade. Those who contributed to the extraordinary rise in temperature were one N. Solomon, pawn-

broker, his attorney J. Silverstone, Detectives Hyde and Reed and Chief Beatty, all of Portland, and Attorney Denman, Chief Wells, Sheriff Gellatly and Victor P. Moses, of Corvallis. Just before the session ended the fire department was called out to protect the court house.

Solomon is a high-headed jassack who imagines he has all the wisdom of the Biblical character of that name, and he has deluded himself into the belief that a pawnbroker's business is more legitimate than that of the midnight marauder whose goods are not infrequently handled by the three-ball men. Solomon is the man who wants the \$200 reward offered by the court, for "peaching" on Clayton and Davis, who did business with him. He is one of the loud-mouthed kind. His attorney, Silverstone, was one of like-kind, and he came down prepared to bluff the local attorneys off the map. However,

he met a Tartar in Attorney Denman. Though with less than an hour to prepare his case, Mr. Denman bolted into the game with perfect assurance, and called the Portland man at every turn. It took less than ten minutes to kick up a row that was one of the most picturesque ever pulled off in the local court house. Silverstone is a first-class "bulldozer," but Denman shone like a star of the first magnitude and what he failed to tell that kinky-headed aggregation wasn't worth telling. Finally Mr. Moses was brought into the case; the Portland attorney questioned his statement, or attitude, and then there was a variety of verbal pyrotechnics. The whole bunch kept this up for two hours and when all were exhausted the court took the matter under advisement.

Briefly, Solomon testified that he had spent four hours in his effort to locate the robbers. He

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saw them on the street and pointed them out to the detectives, who confessed they had done little and accomplished less. Solomon wanted the \$200 reward.

Wells spent five or six days on the trail of the robbers, gave the first description of them, made a deal with Solomon to identify the men, located the men's rooms in Portland after the officials had failed, finally located and secured the Peoria jewelry and Treasurer Buchanan's watch,

this after the officers had looked through and returned to the robbers the very papers that gave Wells his clue. He also was largely instrumental in getting Davis and Clayton to confess.

Other Matters.

Messrs. M. S. Woodcock, A. J. Johnson and J. M. Nolan appeared before the court and asked for a \$600 contribution to the boost fund recently subscribed for the advertisement of Benton

county. This matter was taken under advisement.

The matter of opening the Herron road at Irish Bend was referred to District Attorney Bryson before taking final action.

The plat of Park Terrace, the Allen-McAlexander addition to Corvallis on the west, was filed and approved.

A supplementary plat of the Pleasant View Fruit Farm, filed by Virgil Watters, was approved.
