

MOB LAW IN NORTH DAKOTA

Three Indians Lynched for the Murder of Six Members of the Spicer Family.

THE COURTS WERE TOO SLOW

The Alleged Ringleader of the Murderers Had Obtained a New Trial After Having Been Sentenced to Death.

BISMARCK, N. D., Nov. 14.—Alexander Coudot, an Indian half-breed, and Paul Holytrack and Philip Ireland, full-blooded Indians, the first of whom was sentenced to death for the murder of six members of the Spicer family, last February, and had just obtained a new trial from the Supreme Court, and the latter two self-confessed accessories in the murders, were taken from the County Jail in Emmons County last night and lynched by a mob. The lynching apparently had been planned carefully, and was carried out without a break in the programme.

Williamsport, where the hanging took place, is about forty miles from this city and off the railroad. The news of the hanging was brought here this afternoon by a mounted messenger. The Sheriff of the county, Peter Shier, was in this city at the time the hanging occurred, and it was to him that the messenger brought word. The men had been in the custody of Deputy Sheriff Thomas Kelly, and they were taken from his control by the mob and hanged to a beef windlass several hundred yards from the jail, where their bodies remained to-day, the coroner not having arrived, and no one else having volunteered to cut them down.

The Mob Came on Horseback.
There were about forty men concerned in the lynching. They rode into Williamsport on horseback late at night, and tethered their horses a short distance from the city in order that they might remount as speedily as possible after their purpose was accomplished. The jail in which the prisoners were confined is a substantial stone structure, and was in charge of Deputy Sheriff Kelly. Since the confinement of the prisoners there, so great has been the fear that they might escape, one man has watched all night within the jail, and last night Kelly was on the watch. There was a meeting of the Lodge of Woodmen in a building near the jail, and Kelly expected to meet some of the members of the lodge after the meeting had adjourned.

To while away the time during the night he was playing solitaire in front of the cells in which the murderers were confined. About 2 o'clock in the morning there was a rap at the outer door of the jail, and Kelly arose quickly and turned the key in the lock, thinking that the persons he expected to meet had arrived. No sooner had he opened the door than the mob crowded into the corridors. All of them were masked, and the leaders carried ropes.

The Jailers Surrendered.
Kelly at once realized that the mob had come after his prisoners. The lynchers were quiet but determined. The leaders presented revolvers at the head of the Deputy Sheriff and told him they wanted his prisoners and demanded that he open the cells in which they were confined. Kelly demurred, but saw that resistance was useless, and unlocked the cells. Two of the prisoners were confined together, and the other in a separate cell. They had been aroused from sleep by the entrance of the men and sat up half awake and trembling with terror.

The Indians were taken from their beds, ropes were fastened about their necks, and they were led out of the building, after being told to prepare for death. The men were dragged to a huge beef windlass which had been erected to suspend the carcasses of slaughtered beefs, and strung up on a cross beam. Coudot was the first man to be hanged. It is reported that he was asked before he was hanged whether Holytrack and Ireland had also been concerned in the murder for which he was about to be hanged. He answered that they had been. The rope, which had been fastened about his neck, was then thrown over the cross-beam, and he was raised off the ground and suspended in the air. Holytrack and Ireland were so nearly unconscious from the effects of being dragged to the spot that they did not realize what was about to happen when the ropes about their necks were tossed over the same beam. They were unable to stand and were slowly raised from the ground until their bodies swung in the air and dangled from the windlass with that of Coudot. The mob then dispersed, mounted their horses, and rode away.

Negro Lynched in Arkansas.

Clipped By:



RobinCallahan33

Sat, Oct 4, 2014