

Weekly Saline Citizen
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1/4

Marshall, MO

Jesse James Acquitted.

Jesse James was acquitted of the charge of train-robbery at Kansas City Tuesday. The evidence against him was that of a self-convicted criminal named Lowe, and no one of the witnesses against him had a clear title to respectability. The witnesses for him had generally a good reputation, and the prosecution did not make out a case in any respect. The story was a little too incredible for the jury and they cleared Jesse on the first ballot. The testimony of a witness, who turns state evidence, has a big mortgage on what he swears to and it takes much corroboration to make an honest jury believe that he is not lying by the watch. And if this corroboration is from witnesses of a doubtful character themselves, the case falls to the ground of its own weight. Detectives and men who are known to be interested in making out a case from interested motives, are always discounted and sometimes just 100 per cent as in this case.

A good jury acquitted Jesse James on the first ballot. One strong piece of internal evidence in favor of this young man is that he was found to be an industrious home-keeping young fellow, all of whose employers were the warmest friends in his behalf in the emergency of his life. The feature of his case that gave great certainty to the theory of his innocence was also that the Crittendens and many of those opposed to the side espoused by his family in the late civil war were his most devoted defenders. The fact is that while Jesse James' course after the war was most criminal and reprehensible the people can never forget that causes which made him an outlaw sprang from the turbulent conditions on our State border during the internecine strife. No sympathy for the crime is felt and yet the reason of the man's adopting a criminal career is considered and the idea that his descendants should be attainted unless through their own acts, is looked upon as abhorrent to all ideas of right and justice.