

CROOK COUNTY'S CRIME.

The recently organized county of Crook in Eastern Oregon, was lately the scene of one of the most high-handed outrages that ever stained the name of our state. It appears that the people of this county, and especially in the neighborhood of Prineville, here, for a long time, suffered from the frequent depredations of horse and cattle thieves. It is claimed that there exists in this vicinity, an organized band of these thieves, having branches throughout various parts of Eastern Oregon. These bands are so thoroughly organized and well managed that they have hitherto been able to baffle the officers of the law and escape conviction. This fact has been made the excuse for the organization of a committee of safety or as they call themselves the "Vigilantes." A few days ago these self-constituted so called conservators of the peace, determined upon the execution of three men whom they had decided were guilty of stealing some stock in the neighborhood. And they did their work with a revolting ferocity that ought to satisfy the barbarous instincts of the most blood thirsty and lawless cutthroats that ever disgraced a community. One of the victims was shot in the back while engaged in a social game of cards, while two others were dragged from their beds and hanged to a tree, and then each was shot through the head and left hanging. The very ferocity of these executions is alone sufficient to condemn the executioners as below the level of a border mob. Lawless as mobs are, even they are generally restrained within limits of decency that shame the performance of these Crook county vigilantes. No mob that raises its bloody hand above the law seeks more than the death of its victims, and that it accomplishes in a bold and courageous manner. But this band of bush-whackers sneaks up behind its victim and, shrouded by the darkness, shoots and runs. When it hangs, it must satisfy its craving for blood by shooting its helpless victims while they are yet struggling in the agonies of death.

If there can be any possible justification of mob law, it can only be when the strong arm of the law lies palsied beneath the rule of the lawless; and then the mob must mete out speedy death to those it kills and this for only the gravest crimes and upon certain evidence. But in this case there was none of these excuses. The county, though somewhat new, is amply provided with the machinery of civilized law. The victims were accused of a crime which no civilized country on earth punishes with death. They were not positively known to be guilty of even the crime for which they suffered. While the barbarous, inhuman, and cowardly manner in which they were executed stamps the crime of their killing as the bloodiest of murder. Taken all together, and, without discussing the sometimes possible necessity of the deplorable proceedings of Judge Lynch, this case is one which must bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every law loving and law abiding citizen in this state. We shall watch with no little anxiety the proceedings of Crook county's decent citizens in this matter and cannot but hope that the law will be vindicated by the punishment of every man engaged in these most infernal and fiendish murders.

The board of engineers appointed to examine the mouth of the Columbia have reported recommending the building of jetties as the most feasible way of deepening the channel. The majority estimate the cost of such jetties at about \$3,500,000 but a minority report fixes the necessary expenditure for the work at a little over \$1,100,000. Representative George is hard at work in the interests of this enterprise and expresses entire satisfaction with the progress already made. He says the only danger of failure lies in the present feeling of hostility entertained against the river and harbor bill.

Correspondents from all parts of the country are pestering the newspapers to know whether Mrs. Langtry has a husband and if so where he is and what he does. Can't you let Mrs. Langtry's husband alone! The first thing you know you'll have Mr. Langtry over here organizing a comedy company resurrecting some such classical old as Handy Andy or the like. Let L. alone at least until we get his wife.

bill to reimburse the State for expenses incurred in the war has passed both Houses of and been signed by the President. The bill gives this State

AT LAST.

The civil service reform bill passed the House by a vote of 155 to 47. It now only awaits the signature of the President. This is no doubt be furnished within a few days and the great and long looked for experiment will begin in real earnest. Looking back over the history of this bill, and considering the course of events which preceded it, the discussions which gave it birth, and the influences which have finally secured its adoption, no one can fairly deny the full credit of the measure to the Republican party. It contains, not in a very perfect form to be sure, but perhaps as near perfect as is at present practical, some of the advanced thought of the Republicanism of to-day. If republican practices, in some quarters, have been perverted into practical opposition of the spirit of the bill, they have not escaped that reproach which they have deserved; and that too, at the hands of their party associates. It is of course idle to insist that all Republicans are in favor of this bill, as it is to declare that all Democrats are opposed to it; but the course and conduct of the two parties, as political associations, place them on opposite sides of this great question. Of the 47 votes cast against the bill in the House not more than one sixth were Republicans, while in the Senate only five Republican votes were registered against it. No one, at all familiar with popular feeling on this subject, needs to be told that the Democratic press and politicians throughout the country and, especially at the South, are almost a unit against the measure. Many Democrats do not hesitate to express their open hostility; but the majority are shrewd enough to see that professions of reform so loudly made and frequently repeated during the last elections closes their mouths at least for the present. Such men support the measure outwardly and so lace themselves and their clamorous constituents with the prospect of avoiding its applications when the necessity arises. In this, they will probably be successful if the time should ever come when the execution of the law shall be confided to their party. They may be able to violate the spirit of the law while keeping its letter, but there is no immediate danger that this chance will be afforded them. Without speculating upon the future operation of the law it is clear that this country has taken a long step in the upward march of political progression. The people have moved, and the motive power behind them has been the educating and elevating influence of the true spirit of Republican independence.

Governor Cleveland is now at the head of the State Government of the great State of New York. He is also energetically engaged in practicing for the Presidential race. No sooner had he got comfortably seated in the Governor's chair than he proceeded to inform his political parasites that he would have none of their advice or interference. He proposed, he said, to disregard "applications and petitions for office and seek for the right men" That, he it said in all soberness, is the very meat and marrow of true political reform in reference to official appointments; and is in harmony with the best and most advanced political sentiment of the day. But that any Democratic officer should undertake to regulate his official conduct by such advanced ideas as this is something so unheard of, as to cause general comment. It is needless to say that his political friends, who expect now to receive their pay for selecting him, are chagrined and disappointed beyond measure and have set themselves diligently to work to affect his political ruin. It is painful to note that the practice of the Governor, so far, are distressingly at variance with his professions. Almost his first official act was the dismissal of a most competent clerk who had served the state faithfully for more than twelve years in one of the most responsible positions under the Governor's control, and the appointment of a man whose sole recommendation was personal friendship.

The "Cincinnati Enquirer" is not pleased with Senator Pendleton for his advocacy of the civil service bill. Pendleton is by no means a paragon of political virtue, and this civil service business is not the tallest and brightest feather in his political cap, for your die-in-the-last-ditch Democrat can't adopt these new fangled notions. Senator Pendleton may, however, offset the gratitude of the country against the criticism of the "Enquirer" for this he has earned and received.

On the first of January 1883 there were 268,000 miles of railroad in the United States. If the present activity in railroad building is continued until 1887 this country will own more miles of railroad than all the rest of the world.

There are over a hundred million of silver dollars in the United States treasury. There are now nearly 90,000,000 gallons of whisky deposited in bonded warehouses. Round trip emigrant tickets from Havre France, to San Francisco via New Orleans, are now sold by the Central Pacific railroad for \$65.

It is rumored that Emperor William of Germany will celebrate his 86 birthday, which occurs in March, by abdicating in favor of the Crown Prince.

Governor Blackburn of Kentucky has, during his administration, pardoned 1,509 criminals and remitted fines to the enormous amount of nearly \$2,000,000. This is just a little too much for even the dyed-in-the-wool blue grass Democrats and the governor is to be called to account. No wonder Kentucky courts are beginning to be discouraged.

An Irish member recently denounced the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland as a cowardly and weakminded official. Upon this, the member was arrested upon a charge of high treason, and is soon to be tried for this offense. The criticism, it must be owned, was pretty severe but the fact that it is made the basis of so serious a charge indicates that the much vaunted freedom of speech in England, exists principally in the imagination of the over enthusiastic inhabitants of that island.

The gallant editor of the Democratic "Times" rises to rebuke the Secretary of the Treasury for his recent Chinese warehouse decision. Of course he wants the law enforced, but that a poor woman, even though hailing from the forbidden land and wearing a que, should be made, what he calls the "victim," of Republican interpretation of the law is rather too much for his lofty and charitable soul to endure in silence. If the Secretary had only known this before he made the decision!

It is not very refreshing to observe so fair minded and intelligent a Journal as the "Daily News" justifying the Prineville murders and speaking of those people who raise their voices in favor of civilized law as "tedious and sentimental." It may be "sympathy run to waste" as well as "tedious and sentimental" to insist that law and order should prevail instead of mob violence and midnight murder; but these are old fashioned notions which have long prevailed out in this part of the country and the Prineville reform murder association is a thing of new birth you know. If that sort of thing is to prevail we will no doubt be able, in time, to adapt ourselves to the new order of things lay aside our sympathy for a sword, and our sentiment for a sixshooter, and step out into the light of this new civilization.

The Attorney-Generals New Construction.

The Attorney-General of the United States has been again construing the Chinese Restriction law. He has decided that the law does not prohibit Chinese from passing through this country. It will be remembered that Senator Logan, some time ago, introduced a bill in the Senate granting Chinese this privilege. No one at that time seemed to suppose the present law would permit this, and such was the opinion of the Illinois Senator. But at last the judicial advisor of this government has been prevailed upon to construe the law again and he has afforded the Secretary of State the happiness to inform the Chinese government that John may pass through the United States. This distinguished hair splitter has gone the other members of his craft one better, as he not only shows himself able to split the finest hair with neatness and dispatch and upon the shortest notice, but he has demonstrated his ability to find the hair even upon the top of such a bald headed law as the Restriction Act. The law says it shall be unlawful for Chinese to land here, with certain exceptions which are specified; but the Attorney-General levels his magnifying glasses at this part of the law, discovers a healthy well developed hair, splits it straight through the center and lo, the Chinese may land here.

Really, this is the most dangerous construction yet given to this much construed law, and over this breach the people and press of this coast should not fail to hoist a danger signal. The question of how to prohibit the Chinese from stopping on their way through the country has been referred to the Secretary of the Treasury. Of course there is no way, when once they are permitted to land here of compelling them to continue their journey. Who shall say how long they shall be passing through the country, or how it is possible to distinguish them, short of marks and brands, when once they have set foot on our shores!

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