

# The Dalles Chronicle.

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## BUTLER IS CAPTURED

Arch-Murderer Safely Jailed at San Francisco.

WAS TAKEN IN CUSTODY YESTERDAY

Murderer Was Secured Before the Vessel Landed—Story of Butler's Many Crimes

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2.—George Edward Butler, alias Ashe, the murderer, whose arrival on the ship Swanhilda was so long expected, is now in the San Francisco jail.

The Swanhilda was sighted at 5 o'clock this morning, coming through the heads in tow of the tug Active. The tug blew six whistles, the signal agreed upon, if Butler was on board, but the detectives waiting lower down the bay at Meiggs wharf, did not hear them, and although they knew the Swanhilda was coming in, they did not know if Butler was on board. Suddenly a red light flashed out through the darkness. This was another signal, and the officers knew their man was there.

The custom-house boat Hartley, which had been placed at the disposal of the police, was boarded in haste by six detectives, four newspaper men and four revenue officers, and the little vessel steamed rapidly away to the Swanhilda, which was met off Fort Point. The detectives remained concealed in the cabin while the revenue officers went on board the Swanhilda to see if Butler had been put in irons. He reported that he had not, and the detectives then went on the ship.

Butler was pointed out, and in a second was handcuffed. He denied that he was Butler, but was positively identified by Detectives McHattie and Conroy, who came here from Australia for that purpose. The suspected murderer was taken on board the Hartley, which soon landed him at the wharf. A patrol wagon was in waiting, and he was hustled off to prison.

Although the arrest was a complete surprise to the suspected man, he maintained a remarkable coolness, and calmly puffed a cigarette as he went ashore.

Captain Frazier, of the Swanhilda, had an interesting story to tell. He said Butler shipped with him as a seaman under the name of Lee Weller, one of his victims. All went well on the trip across the Pacific, and it was not known that the notorious murderer was on board. Yesterday when it was known the vessel was near San Francisco, Butler approached Captain Frazier and asked him when the pilot appeared, to slow up, as he expected letters from Australia. When the pilot came aboard Butler approached him and asked: "Well, is it yes or no?" The pilot did not know what he meant, and the man gave no explanation.

Captain Frazier was informed by the pilot that it was supposed Butler was on board under the name of Lee Weller, and told the arrangements for his capture. Captain Frazier agreed to do all in his power to help the police. Nothing was said to Butler, and the ship was brought into port.

It was agreed when the crew lined up for inspection, Captain Frazier was to stop in front of Butler. When the police came on board, and they lined up Butler was the second man in line. Captain Frazier stepped for an instant in front of him, and at the same time Sergeant Bonner of the local police force, covered him with a pistol. Butler's hands went up like a flash. Irons were slipped over his wrists, and one of the most notorious criminals of modern times was a prisoner.

Detectives McHattie and Conroy, who knew Butler in Australia, Conroy having narrowly escaped being one of his victims, were disguised when they boarded the Swanhilda. When they charged Butler with crimes attributed to him, he professed entire ignorance and denied that his name was Butler. On board the Hartley, on the way to shore, the disguises were removed, and still Butler pretended not to know his captors.

On the voyage from Newcastle, Butler worked as an ordinary seaman. In his kit were found garments bearing differ-

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ent marks, which correspond to the initials of some of his victims.

The Australian officers are overjoyed at the successful outcome of their long and weary wait. Extradition papers have already been secured, and unless an unforeseen accident happens, Butler and his custodians will sail for Australia on Thursday on board the Monowai.

Butler declines to be interviewed, refusing to make any statement as to his identity further than that his name is Eagan, but he admits having shipped under the name of Lee Weller. He refuses however, to give any reason why he assumed Weller's name and declines to admit that he even knew Weller. He says a man is innocent until he is proven guilty, and says he will make no statement regarding any portion of his past history. Butler appears undisturbed by his position, and sits unconcernedly facing his questioners with a contemptuous glance. He affects to be rather amused than otherwise at his predicament.

Butler is below medium height, and is decidedly insignificant in appearance. He has a malevolent expression, but hardly looks like a confirmed criminal. He is apparently about 37 years old, and his address suggests a man of fair education.

When his baggage was brought ashore any quantity of incriminating evidence against him was found, carefully packed in with his own belongings. A photo of Mrs. Weller, a pair of bluchers on which were stamped Weller's name, two watches, a spectacle case and watch chain with a locket, all bearing Lee Weller's name and monogram, a number of books on the flyleaf of which were the names of Weller and his wife and many other articles, which are considered by the detectives as positively connecting him with the murder of the sea captain and prospector. The detectives are very positive as to the identity of their prisoner and scoff at any possibility of a mistake.

### STORY OF BUTLER'S CRIMES.

Long List of Heinous Murders Charged Against him.

The story of Butler's crimes in the heart of the Blue mountains of Australia, shows him to be a perfect fiend—a veritable Caliban, whose acts were so fiendish, so utterly devilish in their design and execution, that the mind rebels against accepting them as the work of a human being.

His scheme of crime was unique. He selected for his victims men who had come among the Australian colonists in search of gold. They were mostly unknown men concerning whose disappearance it was extremely unlikely that

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inquiry would be made.

These men he would lure into the mountains upon the pretense of showing them a valuable mineral vein. When he had led them beyond the limits of human habitation he would induce them to take ax and shovel and dig into the earth. What a sickening picture it is! An unsuspecting man calmly digging and shoveling a hole in the ground, while his companion critically follows each stroke, waiting only until the hole is big enough to serve as the digger's grave. Then, from behind, a pistol shot or the stroke of a knife—without a cry, without a witness!

The murderer took from his victim's pockets all the jewelry, money and valuable papers he could find. He then buried the body in the hole, which the victim had dug for himself, destroyed, as well as he could, all traces of the crime and returned to civilization for a fresh victim.

This is repeated again and again, and unless he confesses, the world will never know the true number of his victims. The authorities say he has killed over twelve men in this fashion. He may have done away with forty.

Like most great criminals, he finally grew careless, and his carelessness proved his undoing. He selected for his last victim a man who had many friends. The man was missed and the search for him revealed the crime.

The murderer, unconscious of the fact that his crime had been detected, adopted the name of his last victim, who had been a sailor, and shipped as an able seaman upon a sailing ship bound for San Francisco. Two detectives immediately took passage upon a steamer for British Columbia in order to reach San Francisco ahead of the murderer. At the same time another detective set out for London to obtain extradition papers.

### SENATE REFUSES.

The Proposal to Vote for Senator is Defeated.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 3.—The state senate today, by a vote of 16 to 12, refused to proceed to the election of a United States senator. The Benson house, with 30 members present, at noon took a ballot, and cast 29 votes for John H. Mitchell and one for Geo. H. Williams. The one vote came from Huntington, of Wasco. The senate had a long discussion over the resolution introduced by Brownell, of Clackamas, that it should proceed upon a viva voce vote to name a senator in congress. The resolution was immediately ruled out of order by President Simon, on the ground that it proposed an act contrary to law, in that the house was not organized and no vote for senator could be taken until the second Tuesday thereafter.

An appeal was immediately taken from the decision, and long and somewhat acrimonious discussion followed in which Senator Driver, referring to the legislative obstructionists, said he would just as soon be one of the men who held up the train in Southern Oregon as of the men who held up this legislature. Driver afterwards loudly denied that he had said anything that could be construed to impugn the motives of the members.

When nearly every senator had expressed himself, a vote was taken, and the chair was sustained, the vote being 16 yeas to 12 nays. The vote to sustain was as follows:

Yeas—Bates, Calbreath, Dawson, Geener, Hobson, Holt, King, Mackay, McClung, Mitchell, Mulkey, Patterson of Washington, Reed, Selling, Smith, Wade—16.

Nays—Brownell, Daly, Driver, Dufur, Gowan, Harmon, Haseltine, Hughes, Johnson, Patterson of Marion, Price, Taylor—12.

Absent—Carter. Not voting—President Simon.

### A Valuable Prescription.

Editor Morrison of Worthington, Ind., "Sun," writes: "You have a valuable prescription in Electric Bitters, and I can cheerfully recommend it for Constipation and Sick Headache, and as a general system tonic it has no equal." Mrs. Annie Stehle, 2025 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, was all run down, could not eat nor digest food, had a backache which never left her and felt tired and weary, but six bottles of Electric Bitters restored her health and renewed strength. Prices 50 cents and \$1.00. Get a Bottle at Blakeley and Houghton's Drug Store.

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## New York Weekly Tribune



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—FOR—  
Fathers and Mothers,  
—FOR—  
Sons and Daughters,  
—FOR—  
All the Family.

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