

The Heppner Gazette.

Issued Every Thursday Morning

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MURDER IS RIFE.

Crime on the Increase in United States.

New York, Nov. 24.—There are at present four and a half times as many murders and homicides for each 1,000,000 people in the United States as there were in 1881. With this statement of fact, based upon statistics, S. S. McClure makes a startling showing of the increase of lawlessness in this country, and follows with a stinging criticism of the reign of "criminal oligarchy," of chronic infraction of the law by many classes, of general failure in the enforcement of the statutes, to which causes the condition is attributed. Comments on the prevalence of crime and lawlessness taken almost at random from representative and serious newspapers and from published statements of judges and citizens form the supporting evidence.

In the United States last year there were 876 murders and homicides in a population of about 80,000,000. In 1881 when the population was 51,316,000, there were only 1266 crimes of this class. The high record was reached in 1896, when there were 10,654 murders and homicides in a population of 70,000,000. In 1899 conditions improved, but since then they have steadily grown worse.

Conditions in Chicago are strikingly set forth by comparisons with the criminal records of the two leading cities of Europe. London, with an area of 688 square miles and a population of 6,500,000, had 24 murders last year. There was no "undiscovered crime," as the murderers were all arrested except in four cases, where they committed suicide.

Chicago, with less than one-third of the population and area covered by the London or metropolitan police, had 128 homicides. In 18 cases the murderers were killed at the time of the crime or committed suicide; four other cases were those of officers who did the killing in the performance of their duties, leaving 106 cases for the police to work upon. Out of that number 34 convictions were secured, while in 19 cases no arrest was made, and in 53 cases arrests did not result in conviction. Only one man was hanged in Chicago.

In Paris only 15 murders or attempted murders were committed in the same period. More than eight times as many murders in Chicago as in Paris, six times as many as in London.

The loss of life through crime is made more prominent when compared with fatalities in war and on railroads. In three years the homicides in the United States numbered 31,395. The British loss in the Boer war was 22,000. In the same period there were killed on railroads 21,847.

Labor troubles, the burning of negroes, lawlessness in Colorado, riots and murders in New York are referred to in detail.

Distinguished jurists and educators are quoted as saying that the increase in lawlessness endangers the future of the Nation.

FIRE EATS UP RANGE GRASS.

Montana Stockmen Lose Winter Feed by the Flames.

Butte, Mont., Nov. 24.—A special to

the Miner from Harlem, Mont., says:

A large prairie fire has been raging for several days some 40 miles north of this place and is still burning fiercely. Thousands of acres of grazing lands have been swept over and thousands of dollars' worth of property has been destroyed. George Petrie, a prominent sheepman, is reported to have lost all of his hay, his residence and all of his buildings, while it is feared that other sheepmen have seen all of their buildings go up in smoke in the past few days.

It is said that the fire started over the Canadian line Monday afternoon, and during the terrific windstorms of Tuesday and Wednesday has moved with startling rapidity over into the American possessions, from which all kinds of antelope, deer and other wild animals have fled for their lives in all directions. The fire is plainly visible tonight, and the sheepmen in its path will all be heavy losers, for their winter range is destroyed, together with all of their hay for winter feeding, and other buildings.

Thousands of sheep have had their winter range in the fireswept portion and the owners of these will have to resort to drastic methods to secure other ranges.

Mr. Petrie, one of the heaviest losers by the fire, has been in the vicinity of Great Falls for the past few days buying sheep, and it is understood that he is now on the way here with them. Large numbers of men have been fighting the flames ever since they started, but have not been equal to the task. There is talk of lynching the man who started the fire if he can be found.

Gazette and Oregonian \$2.

WHEAT AROUND THE HORN.

Cargo May Be Sent From Portland to New York.

Rumor has it that the American ship Shenandoah has been chartered to carry a cargo of flour and wheat from Portland to New York. All the shippers have heard the report, but while professing to know nothing of a definite nature, appear to believe that it is true, says the Oregon Daily Journal.

The Shenandoah is lying at San Francisco and could be got here in short order. She is of more than 3000 tons net register and has an actual carrying capacity of more than 5000 tons. If she has been engaged for the purpose named it is for the purpose of assisting the railroad companies in getting the heavy flour and wheat shipments east.

There has been talk for several months of dispatching cargoes around the horn, but the difficulty standing in the way of the venture, it was cited, was the lack of American tonnage on the Pacific coast.

While suitable American tonnage is said to be scarce in these waters, there are a number of vessels of the description desired at San Francisco, and it is generally believed that a movement is on foot to place them in the flour and grain trade between the Pacific coast ports and the Atlantic cities.

It is declared that such a course is the only solution of the problem to deliver the orders that have already been placed for Pacific coast wheat and flour. The statement is made that the railroad companies are unable to handle all the traffic, and being convinced of this fact many of the local flour dealers have not attempted to make any further sales to eastern buyers.

Champion Sold.

New York, Nov. 24.—Major Delmar, the world's champion trotting gelding, with an unpaired trotting record of 2:01 1/4, and paced trotting time of 1:59 3/4, was sold at the Old Glory sale at Madison Square Garden today for \$15,000. The purchaser was C. K. Billings, the owner of Lou Dillon. It is announced that Billings will race Major Delmar and Lou Dillon in an effort to break the world's record.

Prince Alert, the world's champion pacing gelding, with a race record of 1:59 1/2, and a record of 1:57, with a wind shield was sold to Walter Wyman of London, for \$2600.

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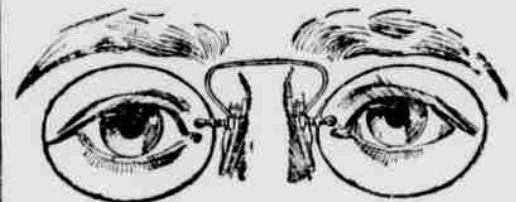
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