



The THIRD DEGREE

A NARRATIVE OF METROPOLITAN LIFE

By CHARLES KLEIN AND ARTHUR HORNBLAW

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAY WALTERS

He sank helplessly on a chair. His eyes rolled in his head. He looked as if he would faint.

"Stand up!" thundered the captain angrily.

Howard obeyed mechanically, although he reeled in the effort. To steady himself, he caught hold of the table. His strength was fast ebbing. He was losing his power to resist. The captain saw he was weakening, and he smiled with satisfaction. He'd soon get a confession out of him. Suddenly bending forward, so that his fierce, determined stare glared right into Howard's half closed eyes, he shouted:

"You did it and you know you did it!"

"No!" replied Howard weakly.

"These repeated denials are useless!" shouted the captain. "There's already enough evidence to send you to the chair!"

Howard shook his head helplessly. Weakly he replied:

"This constant questioning is making me dizzy. Good God! What's the use of questioning me and questioning me? I know nothing about it."

"Why did you come here?" thundered the captain.

"I've told you over and over again. We're old friends. I came to borrow money. He owed me a few hundred dollars when we were at college together, and I tried to get it. I've told you so many times. You won't be-

blinding steel. Capt. Clinton quickly followed up his advantage.

"You committed this crime, Howard Jeffries!" he shouted, fixing him with a stare.

To his subordinate he shouted: "He killed him all right," echoed Maloney.

His eyes still fixed on those of his victim, and approaching his face close to his, the captain shouted:

"You did it, Jeffries! Come on, own up! Let's have the truth! You shot Robert Underwood with this revolver. You did it, and you can't deny it! You know you can't deny it! Speak!" he thundered. "You did it!"

Howard, his eyes still fixed on the shining pistol, repeated, as if reciting a lesson:

"I did it!"

Quickly Capt. Clinton signaled to



"Why Did You Come Here?"

Heve me. My brain is tired. I'm thoroughly exhausted. Please let me go. My poor wife won't know what's the matter."

"Never mind about your wife," growled the captain. "We've sent for her. How much did you try to borrow?"

Howard was silent a moment, as if racking his brain, trying to remember.

"A thousand—two thousand. I forget. I think one thousand."

"Did he say he'd lend you the money?" demanded the inquisitor.

"No," replied the prisoner, with hesitation. He couldn't—poor chap—

"Ah!" snapped the captain. "He refused—that led to words. There was a quarrel, and—" Suddenly leaning forward until his face almost touched Howard's, he hissed rather than spoke: "You shot him!"

Howard gave an involuntary step backward, as if he realized the trap being laid for him.

"No, no!" he cried.

Quickly following up his advantage, Capt. Clinton shouted dramatically:

"You lie! He was found on the floor in this room—dead. You were trying to get out of the house without being seen. You hadn't even stopped to wash the blood off your hands. All you fellows make mistakes. You relied on getting away unseen. You never stopped to think that the blood on your hands would betray you. Gruffly he added: "Now, come, what's the use of wasting all this time? It won't go so hard with you if you own up. You killed Robert Underwood!"

Howard shook his head. There was a pathetic expression of helplessness on his face.

"I didn't kill him," he faltered. "I was asleep on that sofa. I woke up. It was dark. I went out. I wanted to get home. My wife was waiting for me."

"Now I've caught you lying," interrupted the captain quickly. "You told the coroner you saw the dead man and feared you would be suspected of his murder, and so tried to get away unseen." Turning to his men, he added: "How is that, Maloney? Did the prisoner say that?"

The sergeant consulted his back notes, and replied:

"Yes, Cap., that's what he said."

Suddenly Capt. Clinton drew from his hip pocket the revolver which he had found on the floor near the dead man's body. The supreme test was

blinding steel. Capt. Clinton quickly followed up his advantage.

"You committed this crime, Howard Jeffries!" he shouted, fixing him with a stare.

To his subordinate he shouted: "He killed him all right," echoed Maloney.

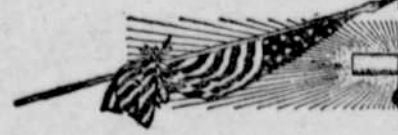
His eyes still fixed on those of his victim, and approaching his face close to his, the captain shouted:

"You did it, Jeffries! Come on, own up! Let's have the truth! You shot Robert Underwood with this revolver. You did it, and you can't deny it! You know you can't deny it! Speak!" he thundered. "You did it!"

Howard, his eyes still fixed on the shining pistol, repeated, as if reciting a lesson:

"I did it!"

Quickly Capt. Clinton signaled to



Captain's Heroic Act.

Penned in the cabin of a canal boat that had sunk at New York, the other day, the captain saved his invalid wife and 12-year-old daughter in a most remarkable manner. The hero of this exploit was James Oelsen, captain of the Josie B. With his wife and daughter he was at breakfast in the cabin of the boat, which was loaded with coal, when suddenly the craft gave a lurch, and went to the bottom like a shot. The captain acted instantly. He pushed his daughter through the cabin door and she rose to the surface. Then he started to help his wife out, but both became wedged in the door. He managed to free himself and came to the surface. Seeing his daughter safe, Oelsen looked around for his wife, but she had not come up, and he dived into the water, coming up in a few moments with the unconscious form of the woman. Other help was now at hand, and all were got safely to land.

A Lucky Miss.

The Guide—There, ye've missed; I kin hear him makin' off through the bushes.

Young Hopeful—Well, it doesn't matter; it was probably only the governor. He was somewhere over in that direction, wasn't he?—Harper's Weekly.

Maloney to approach nearer with his notebook. The detective sergeant took his place immediately back of Howard. The captain turned to his prisoner:

"You shot Robert Underwood!"

"I shot Robert Underwood," repeated Howard mechanically.

"You quarreled?"

"We quarreled."

"You came here for money?"

"I came here for money."

"He refused to give it to you?"

"He refused to give it to me."

"There was a quarrel?"

"There was a quarrel."

"You drew that pistol?"

"I drew that pistol."

"And shot him?"

"And shot him."

Capt. Clinton smiled triumphantly. "That's all," he said.

Howard collapsed into a chair. His head dropped forward on his breast, as if he were asleep. Capt. Clinton yawned and looked at his watch. Turning to Maloney, he said with a chuckle:

"By George; it's taken five hours to get it out of him!"

Maloney turned out the electric lights and went to pull up the window shades, letting the bright daylight stream into the room. Suddenly there was a ring at the front door. Officer Delaney opened, and Dr. Bernstein entered. Advancing into the room, he shook hands with the captain.

"I'm sorry I couldn't come before, captain. I was out when I got the call. Where's the body?"

The captain pointed to the inner room.

"In there."

After glancing curiously at Howard, the doctor disappeared into the inner room.

Capt. Clinton turned to Maloney.

"Well, Maloney, I guess our work is done here. We want to get the prisoner over to the station, then make out a charge of murder, and prepare the full confession to submit to the magistrate. Have everything ready by nine o'clock. Meantime, I'll go down and see the newspaper boys. I guess there's a bunch of them down there. Of course, it's too late for the morning papers, but it's a bully good story for the afternoon editions. Delaney, you're responsible for the prisoner. Better handcuff him."

The patrolman was just putting the manacles on Howard's wrists when Dr. Bernstein re-entered from the inner room. The captain turned.

"Well, have you seen your man?" he asked.

The doctor nodded.

"Found a bullet wound in his head," he said. "Flesh all burned—must have been pretty close range. It might have been a case of suicide."

Capt. Clinton frowned. He didn't like suggestions of that kind after an confession which had cost him five hours' work to procure.

"Suicide?" he sneered. "Say, doctor, did you happen to notice what side of the head the wound was on?"

Dr. Bernstein reflected a moment.

"Ah, yes. Now I come to think of it, it was the left side."

"Precisely," sneered the captain. "I never heard of a suicide shooting himself in the left temple. Don't worry, doctor, it's murder, all right." Pointing with a jerk of his finger toward Howard, he added: "And we've got the man who did the job."

Officer Delaney approached his chief and spoke to him in a low tone. The captain frowned and looked toward his prisoner. Then, turning toward the officer, he said:

"Is the wife downstairs?"

The officer nodded.

"Yes, sir; they just telephoned."

"Then let her come up," said the captain. "She may know something." Delaney returned to the telephone and Dr. Bernstein turned to the captain:

"Say what you will, captain, I'm not at all sure that Underwood did not do this himself."

"Ain't you? Well, I am," replied the captain with a sneer. Pointing again to Howard, he said:

"This man has just confessed to the shooting."

At that moment the front door opened and Annie Jeffries came in escorted by an officer. She was pale and frightened, and looked timidly at the group of strange and serious-looking men present. Then her eyes went round the room in search of her husband. She saw him seemingly asleep in an armchair, his wrists manacled in front of him. With a frightened exclamation she sprang forward, but Officer Delaney intercepted her. Capt. Clinton turned around angrily at the interruption.

"Keep the woman quiet till she's wanted!" he growled.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

APPLE CROP GAINING.

Cold Weather in Hood River Zone Presages Big Yield.

Hood River—With every indication pointing to the biggest crop of apples by far that the Hood River valley ever had, the Growers' union, individual shippers and merchants are making active preparations for an increased local storage capacity to handle the fruit, which present estimates place at upwards of 1,000,000 boxes. With work begun and plans under way, the storage plants of the community will have their capacity greatly enlarged before the fall harvest begins.

"While we will make no definite plans until after the annual meeting of the stockholders here in April," says C. H. Sprout, manager of the local union, "we propose to make a great increase in our storage warehouses." The union made the purchase last year of a number of lots adjoining the present storage and refrigerating plant. The present capacity of the union building is 40,000 boxes. It is hoped that at the meeting a strong concerted action will be made to increase this capacity to several hundred thousand boxes.

TO INOCULATE SOIL OF OREGON

Agricultural College Giving Free Bacteria to Farmers.

Corvallis—Free bacteria for the raising of leguminous crops, such as alfalfa, peas, beans, and clovers, will be furnished to the farmers of Oregon upon request by the department of bacteriology at the Oregon Agricultural college. The experiment station experts have been busy preparing this material for the inoculation of soil for some time, and will send full directions for its use with each culture. Those desiring the material should send their requests at least two weeks in advance of the time they wish to use it, stating what leguminous crops they desire to raise, and how much land they intend to plant.

Anyone who has examined the roots of a thrifty plant of this sort of crop knows that there are found on the roots small lumps, known as nodules. Scientific study has shown these to be caused by bacteria infecting the roots, and that unless these are present, a good stand will not be obtained, showing that the bacteria are necessary to the full growth of the plant. If the soil does not contain the bacteria, a good catch of the crop may not be expected. By using these cultures the proper bacteria may be introduced into the soil. Where a crop has never been grown on a particular piece of land, as where alfalfa is being introduced, or when the stand obtained has not been satisfactory and it is known that the lack was not that of sufficient lime, such cultures can be used with good effect. They will not, however, correct lime deficiency, nor will the bacteria thrive in acid soil. For this reason, lime should be applied where needed before the culture is used.

FAMILIES COME WEST.

Colonists' Children Will Assist in Work on Home Farms.

Hood River—Since the westbound trains filled with homeseekers have been passing through Hood River the past week, about ten families have stopped to make this valley their future home. A significant fact about newcomers this year is that all seem to have made definite plans before leaving their Eastern homes.

Many have relatives who have already secured places for them. Friday a family with ten children arrived from Missouri. The children will assist in raising strawberries.

The colonists do not linger long in the city, but strike straight for the communities they have chosen for home spots in the country. The class of homeseekers coming this year is especially gratifying to Hood River people.

FARM IS WORLD PROBLEM

Samuel Hill Says Country Must Be Made Attractive.

Portland—That the problem of inducing people to go back to the land can only be solved by providing good roads, telephones, good schools, rural delivery, was the declaration of Samuel Hill, pioneer in the good roads movement in the Pacific Northwest, in an address delivered in Westminster Presbyterian church, dealing with the building of highways.

He pointed out that between the years 1870 and 1900 the proportion of the population engaged in agricultural pursuits had been reduced one-half. This, he declared, was one explanation of the high cost of living. He said the problem of putting people back on the farm and keeping them there is not only a national one, but is one with which the whole world is called to deal. To keep people on the land, he asserted, required that they should not only have improved facilities, but that they should have markets for their products. Good roads over which to haul these products were shown by the speaker to be indispensable in the solution of this economic problem.

MAN FILES ON LOST ACRES.

Government Surveyors Overlook Land Which Becomes Valuable.

Roseburg—An unusual transaction was recorded at the Roseburg United States land office when John McNeill, of Southern Oregon, filed upon an acre of land abutting the city limits of Medford, omitted from the territory embraced in government surveys. In the event McNeill resides on the land continuously for 14 months he can purchase the same from the government for \$2.50, and should he wish to waive this payment he can secure a government patent to the land at the expiration of five years.

BERRY OUTPUT INCREASES.

Portland—An increased production of strawberries is expected in the Hood River and Mosier districts this year, and the O. W. R. & N. company is preparing to give the growers special service to Eastern points where the berries are sold.

In 1910 the Hood River districts exported 62 carloads of berries from the state. This year the output will be approximately 100 carloads, according to early estimates. They are shipped to points in North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and as far East as Chicago.

FISH MAY TAKE SIESTA.

Oregon City—Following a visit to Oregon City and an inspection of the falls, where salmon collect in large numbers, three members of the Fish and Game commission issued an order that the deadline at Oregon City for net fishermen shall be moved down 1,000 feet, or to a point on the river from the O. W. R. & N. dock to a pier on the West side of the river. This order will go into effect on May 1, the date the present order closing the Willamette river to commercial fishing expires.

15 CENT MEALS STARTLE

State Auditors Gasp at Assessor's Expense Account.

Salem—Fifteen-cent meals and beds for 50 cents a night, charged by Assessor Strain, of Umatilla, against his expense on a state account caused the auditing department in Secretary Olcott's office to gasp. Strain was here recently attending a state meeting of the assessors of the state. He reported no expense for carfare. For three days he charged 45 cents a day for meals, or 15 cents a meal, and 50 cents a night for lodging.

His three days' stay here at the assessors' meeting will cost the state \$2.85, which is considered a record-breaker.

GOLD MINERS ARE PROSPEROUS.

Grants Pass—The mining business in Southern Oregon is beginning to get back its former good condition of a few years ago. Miners are patronizing the banks as a result of the present excellent outlook. Every few days some miner with pick and shovel returns to town with plenty of change in the shape of raw gold. Charles Burkholder brought in recently a nugget that is a fine specimen of what may be found in the hills of Josephine county. It weighed a value of \$120.

OREGON FRUIT IN GERMANY

Grande Ronde Apples Make Big Hit in Europe.

La Grande—Returns have been received from the Grande Ronde apples which were shipped to Germany. They averaged \$1.82 the box. With the remittance came a most flattering report that the apples were received in the best of condition and that the box of extra fancy apples shipped gratis with the shipment to Emperor William of Germany was well received and much appreciated. From present indications the Grande Ronde valley expects to market most of its apple crop this year in Germany.

BIG CROP IN GRAND RONDE.

Imbler—The estimate now for the fruit crop of the Grande Ronde valley for 1912, including pears and peaches, is 1,000 carloads. The fruit growers are agitating the marketing problem and the president of the Eastern Oregon district fruit growers' association has issued a letter to the growers to get their reports for 1911 and their ideas as to a selling agency. About 75 inches of snow has fallen over the grain section of the Grande Ronde valley and furnished excellent protection for the winter grain.

POULTRY CAR STARTS TOUR APRIL 6.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—On April 6 the poultry demonstration car equipped by the Oregon Agricultural college will leave Corvallis for a long tour of the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon, in which it will make some 45 stops, covering practically all of the territory adjacent to the branches of that road. Ashland will be the first stop. The itinerary will be arranged by the railroad officials, and the average stop will be half a day, though a longer time may be allotted the larger centers visited.

FARMERS GIVE LAND FOR RAILWAY.

Eugene—So anxious are farmers along the river road northwest of Eugene to have the Portland & Eugene electric line extended into their territory that they have offered to deed to the county six feet more land along their property to make the road 66 feet in order that a 40-foot strip might be turned over to the electric company. The question of a franchise for the railway company will come before the court for hearing soon.

SQUIRRELS FOUND STARVED TO DEATH.

Cottage Grove—The belief that it is squirrels in the search of food that have been doing the damage to timber in the Cottage Grove country has been strengthened this week by reports of the finding of numbers of gray squirrels that have starved to death and have been found to be filled with fat from the bark of trees. The mystery of what animal has been damaging the trees has resulted in many theories being advanced but so far the squirrels are the only animals that have actually been caught at work.

TRAPS SIX WILD ANIMALS.

Albany—R. S. Leeper, of Albany, presented the skins of four wildcats and two coyotes at the county clerk's office here and collected the state bounty. He trapped the animals in the Upper South Santiam river region.

FRUIT BUDS NOT INJURED BY COLD.

Brooks—The cold weather of last week is ended and a careful inspection of the fruit buds discloses very little harm done. Pear buds, which were a little in advance of the season, are slightly blackened on the outside, but the heart is not affected.

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

General Resume of Important Events Preserved in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

Warring Chinese tongs in San Francisco have again agreed to a truce.

Amundsen lauds his four companions for their loyalty during his dash to the South Pole.

Four warships will be kept permanently on Puget Sound, and known as the Pacific Reserve fleet.

The Japanese tramp steamer Unkai Maru No. 2 sailed from Portland with 200,000 sacks of flour for Japan.

The 9-year-old daughter of Governor Hooper, of Tennessee, made a speech for woman suffrage in the state house.

It is estimated that at least 300,000 cotton and wool mill operatives in New England will receive an increase of 5 per cent or more in wages by April first.

Another heavy snow storm swooped down on the Central states. A steamer was crushed in the ice of Lake Michigan near Chicago, her crew of 33 escaping by crossing the ice cakes to land.

The Canadian government has ordered the town of Frank, with a population of about 3,000, to move away from the base of Turtle Mountain, on account of the constant danger from earth and snow slides.

Four boys stole a handcar at Baker, Ore., and started down the line of the Sumpter Valley road for a ride. The superintendent of the line, on a gasoline speeder, caught them just in time to avert a collision with a logging train.

Oregon City has been much disturbed by the removal at night of the big iron covers of sewer manholes, and it has been discovered that the powerful magnets of the electric motors on the freight engines on the electric road, which were used only at night, were picking them up and carrying them away.

Americans in Mexico City are planning to defend themselves when the city is attacked by the approaching rebels.

Active work has begun on the Portland-Hood River wagon road.

Fire in the coal bunkers of the liner Minnesota while lying at her wharf in Seattle gave the crew a hard fight for two hours.

The separate properties of the Standard Oil company are said to have increased in value \$250,000,000, since the dissolution of the trust.

Consignments of arms and ammunition are being sent to the Mexican rebels by way of Juarez, and no one seems to have authority to stop them.

A Mohawk Valley, Or., rancher says eagles are carrying off all his young lambs and kids.

A Wabash fast express jumped the track on a curve in Illinois and rolled down a 30-foot embankment, killing at least five persons and injuring about 70.

I. W. W. street speakers in jail at San Diego, Cal., plugged the locks of the cellroom doors with bits of tin and then tried to tear down the concrete walls of the building.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 90c; club, 87c; Red Russian, 86c; valley, 87c; 88c; forty-ford, 87c; 88c; Millstuffs—Bran, 22c@22c per ton; shorts, 22c@24c; middlings, 30c.

Corn—New, whole, 34c; cracked, 35c per ton.

Hay—No. 1 Eastern Oregon timothy, \$15@16; No. 1 valley, \$13@14; alfalfa, \$12.50@13; clover, 9c; oat and vetch, \$11@11.50; other grain hay, 9c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$33@33.50 ton. Potatoes—Buying prices: Burbanks, \$1.25@1.75 per hundred.

Vegetables—Asparagus, 8c@9c per pound; cabbage, 13c@14c; hothouse lettuce, 50c@75c per box; peppers, 12c@14c; pumpkins, 14c@2c; rhubarb, \$2.75@3 per box; sprouts, 8c; squash, 14c@2c; turnips, \$1@1.10 per sack; rutabagas, \$1@1.10; carrots, \$1@1.10; parsnips, \$1@1.10; beets, \$1.25.

Onions—Association price, \$2.50 per sack.

Apples—Yellow Newtown, \$2@2.50; Spitzenberg, \$1.75@3; Baldwin, \$1.50@2; Ben Davis, \$1@1.75; Red Cheek Pippin, \$2@2.50; Gano, \$1@1.75.

Hops—1911 crop, 38c@39c; olds, nominal; 1912 contracts, 26c@27c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 14c@16c per pound; valley, 16c@17c; mohair, choice 1911 clip, 30c@31c.

Butter—Oregon creamery, solid pack, 33c; prints, extra.

Eggs—Oregon, current receipts, 20c@21c per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 8c@9c per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 13c@14c per pound.

Poultry—Hens, 14c; turkeys, live, 16c; dressed, 20c@21c; springs, 15c@15c; ducks, 16c; geese, 8c@10c.

Cattle—Choice steers, \$6.10@6.35; good, \$5.90@6.10; choice cows, \$5.30@5.50; good, \$4.75@5; choice spayed heifers, \$5.50@5.65; good to choice heifers, \$5.35@5.50; choice bulls, \$4.50@4.75; good, \$4@4.25; choice calves, \$3@3.65; good, \$2@2.8.

Hogs—Choice light hogs, \$5@5.75; smooth heavy hogs, \$5.75@6; rough heavy, \$5.50@5.75.

Sheep—Choice yearlings, \$5@5.75; choice twos and threes, \$4.15@4.50; choice killing ewes, \$4.25@4.65; culls, \$2.50@3.25; choice fed wool lambs, 5.75@6.25; choice grain-fed lambs, \$5.50@5.60; choice spring lambs, \$4.75@5; good to choice lambs, \$4.50@4.75; fair to good lambs, \$4.25@4.50.