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A STUDY IN SCARLET

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

CHAPTER VII—Continued.

Mr. Gregson, who had listened to this address with considerable impatience, could contain himself no longer.

"Look here, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," he said, "we are all ready to acknowledge that you are a smart man, and that you have your own methods of working. We want something more than mere theory and preaching now, though. It is a case of taking the man. I have made my case out, and it seems I was wrong. Young Charpentier could not have been engaged in this second affair. Lestrade went after his man, Stangerson, and it appears that he was wrong, too. You have thrown out hints here and hints there, and seem to know more than we do, but the time has come when we feel that we have a right to ask you straight how much you do know of the business. Can you name the man who did it?"

"I cannot help feeling that Gregson is right, sir," remarked Lestrade. "We have both tried, and we have both failed. You have remarked more than once since I have been in the room that you had all the evidence which you require. Surely you will not withhold it any longer?"

"Any delay in arresting the assassin," I observed, "might give him time to perpetrate some fresh atrocity."

Thus pressed by us all, Holmes showed signs of irresolution

He continued to walk up and down the room with his head sunk on his chest and his brows drawn down, as was his habit when lost in thought.

"There will be no more murders," he said, at last, stopping abruptly and facing us. "You can put that consideration out of the question. You have asked me if I know the name of the assassin. I do. The mere knowing of his name is a small thing, however, compared with the power of laying our hands upon him. This I expect very shortly to do. I have good hopes of managing it through my own arrangements; but it is a thing which needs delicate handling, for we have a shrewd and desperate man to deal with, who is supported, as I have had occasion to prove, by another who is as clever as himself. As long as this man has no idea that any one can have a clew, there is some chance of securing him; but if he had the slightest suspicion, he would change his name, and vanish in an instant among the four million inhabitants of this great city. Without meaning to hurt either of your feelings, I am bound to say that I consider these men to be more than a match for the official force, and that is why I have not asked your assistance. If I fail I shall, of course, incur all the blame due to this omission; but that I am prepared for. At present I am ready to promise that the instant I can communicate with you without endangering my own combinations I shall do so."

Gregson and Lestrade seemed to be far from satisfied by this assurance, or by the deprecating allusion to the detective police.

The former had flushed up to the roots of his flaxen hair, while the other's beady eyes glistened with curiosity and resentment.

Neither of them had time to speak, however, before there was a tap at the door and the spokesman of the street arab, young Wiggins, introduced his insignificant and unsavory person.

"Please, sir," he said, touching his forelock, "I have the cab down stairs."

"Good boy," said Holmes, blandly. "Why don't you introduce this pattern at Scotland Yard?" he continued, taking a pair of steel handcuffs from a drawer. "See how beautifully the spring works. They fasten in an instant."

"The old pattern is good enough," remarked Lestrade, "if we can find the man to put them on."

"Very good, very good," said Holmes, smiling. "The cabman may as well help me with my boxes. Just ask him to step up, Wiggins."

I was surprised to find my companion speaking as though we were about to start out on a journey, since he had not said nothing to me about it.

There was a small portmanteau in the room, and this he pulled out and began to strap.

He was busily engaged at it when the cabman entered the room.

"Just give me a help with this buckle, cabman," he said, kneeling over his task, and never turning his head.

The fellow came forward with a somewhat sullen defiant air, and put down his hands to assist

At that instant there was a sharp click, the jangling of metal, and Sherlock Holmes sprang to his feet again.

"Gentlemen," he cried, with flashing eyes, "let me introduce to you Mr Jefferson Hope, the murderer of Enoch Drebber and Joseph Stangerson.

The whole thing occurred in a moment—so quickly that I had no time to realize it.

I have a vivid recollection of that instant, of Holmes' triumphant expression and the ring of his voice, of the cabman's dazed, savage face, as he glared at the glistening handcuffs, which had appeared as if by magic upon his wrists.

For a second or two we might have been a group of statues. Then, with an inarticulate roar of fury, the prisoner wrenched himself free from Holmes' grasp, and hurled himself through the window.

Woodwork and glass gave way before him; but before he got quite through Gregson, Lestrade and Holmes sprang upon him like so many staghounds.

He was dragged back into the room, and then commenced a terrific conflict.

So powerful and so fierce was he that the four of us were shaken off again and again. He appeared to have the convulsive strength of a man in an epileptic fit.

His face and hands were terribly mangled by the passage through the glass, but loss of blood had no effect in diminishing his resistance.

It was not until Lestrade succeeded in getting his hand inside his neckcloth and half strangling him that we made him realize that his struggles were of no avail; and even then we felt no security until we had pinioned his feet as well as his hands. That done, we rose to our feet, breathless and panting.

"We have his cab," said Sherlock Holmes "It will serve to take him to Scotland Yard. And now, gentlemen," he continued, with a pleasant smile, "we have reached the end of our little mystery. You are very welcome to put any questions that you like to me now, and there is no danger that I will refuse to answer them."

PART II.

The Country of the Saint.

CHAPTER I.

In the central portion of the great North American Continent there lies an arid and repulsive desert, which for many a long year served as a barrier against the advance of civilization.

From the Sierra Nevada to Nebraska, and from the Yellowstone river in the north to the Colorado upon the south, is a region of desolation and silence.

Nor is nature always in one mood throughout this grim district. It comprises snow-capped and lofty mountains and dark gloomy valleys.

There are swiftly-flowing rivers which dash through jagged canyons; and there are enormous plains, which in winter are white with snow, and in summer are gray with the saline alkali dust. They all preserve, however, the common characteristic of barrenness, inhospitality and misery.

There are no inhabitants of this land of despair.

A band of Pawnees or of Blackfeet may occasionally traverse it in order to reach other hunting-grounds, but the hardiest of the braves are glad to lose sight of those awesome plains and to find themselves once more upon their prairies.

The coyote skulks among the scrub, the buzzard flaps heavily through the air, and the clumsy grizzly bear lumbers through the dark ravines, and picks up such sustenance as it can among the rocks. These are the sole dwellers in the wilderness.

In the whole world there can be no more dreary view than that from the northern slope of the Sierra Blanco.

As far as the eye can reach stretches the great flat plainland, all dusted over with patches of alkali, and intersected by clumps of the dwarfish chaparral bushes.

On the extreme verge of the horizon lie a long chain of mountain peaks, with their rugged summits flecked with snow. In this great stretch of country there is no sign of life, nor of anything appertaining to life upon the broad plain. That is hardly true.

Looking down from the Sierra Blanco, one sees a pathway traced out across the desert, which winds away and is lost in the extreme distance.

It is rutted with wheels and trodden down by the feet of many adventurers.

Here and there are scattered white objects which glisten in the sun and stand out against the dull deposit of alkali.

Approach and examine them! They are bones; some large and coarse, others smaller and more delicate. The former have belonged to oxen, the latter to men.

For fifteen hundred miles one may trace this ghastly caravan route by these scattered remains of those who had fallen by the wayside.

Looking down on this very scene, there stood upon the 4th of May, 1847, a solitary traveler.

His appearance was such that he might have been the very genius or demon of the region. An observer would have found it difficult to say whether he was nearer to forty or to sixty.

His face was lean and haggard, and the brown, parchment-like skin was drawn tightly over the projecting bones; his long, brown hair and beard were all flecked and dashed with white; his eyes were sunken in his head, and burned with an unnatural luster, while the hand which grasped his rifle was hardly more fleshy than that of a skeleton.

As he stood, he leaned upon his weapon for support, and yet his tall figure and the massive framework of his bones suggested a wiry and vigorous constitution.

His gaunt face, however, and his clothes, which hung so baggily over his shriveled limbs, proclaimed what it was that gave him that senile and decrepit appearance.

The man was dying—dying from hunger and from thirst.

He had toiled painfully down the ravine, and on to this little elevation, in the vain hope of seeing some signs of water.

Now the great salt plain stretched before his eyes, and the distant belt of savage mountains, without a sign anywhere of plant or tree which might indicate the presence of moisture.

In all that broad landscape there was no gleam of hope. North, and east, and west he looked with wild, questioning eyes, and then he realized that his wanderings had come to an end, and that there, on that barren crag, he was about to die.

"Why not here, as well as in a feather bed, twenty years hence," he muttered, as he seated himself in the shelter of a bowlder.

Before sitting down, he had deposited upon the ground his useless rifle, and also a large bundle tied up in a gray shawl, which he had carried slung over his right shoulder.

It appeared to be somewhat too heavy for his strength, for, in lowering it, it came down on the ground with some little violence.

Instantly there broke from the gray parcel a little moaning cry, and from it there protruded a small, scared face, with very bright, brown eyes, and two little speckled, dimpled fists.

"You've hurt me!" said a childish voice, reproachfully.

"Have I, though?" the man answered, penitently; "I didn't go for to do it."

As he spoke, he unwrapped the gray shawl and extricated a pretty little girl of about five years of age, whose dainty shoes and smart pink frock, with its little linen apron, all bespoke a mother's care.

The child was pale and wan, but her healthy arms and legs showed that she had suffered less than her companion.

"How is it now?" he answered, anxiously, for she was still rubbing the towsy-golden curls which covered the back of her head.

"Kiss it and make it well," she said, with perfect gravity, shoving the injured part up to him. "That's what mother used to do. Where's mother?"

"Mother's gone. I guess you'll see her before long."

"Gone, eh?" said the little girl. "Funny, she didnt say good-bye; she 'most always did if she was just goin' over to auntie's for tea, and now she's been away for three days. Say, it's awful dry, ain't it? Ain't there no water nor nothing to eat?"

"No, there ain't nothing, dearie. You'll just nee dto be patient awhile, and then you'll be all right. Put your head up agin me, like that, and then you'll feel better. It ain't easy to talk when your lips are like leather, but I guess I'd best let you know how the cards lie. What's that you've got?"

"Pretty things! fine things!" cried the little girl, ethusiastically, holding up two glittering fragments of mica. "When we goes back to home I'll give them to brother Bob."

"You'll see prettier things than them soon," said the man, confidently. "You just wait a bit. I was going to tell you, though—you remember when we left the river?"

"Well, we reckoned we strike another river soon, d'ye see. But there was somethin' wrong; compasses or map, or somethin', and it didn't turn up. Water ran out. Just except a little drop for the likes of you and—and—"

"And you couldn't wash yourself," interrupted his companion, gravely, staring up at his grimy visage.

"No, nor drink. And Mr. Bender, he was the first to go, and then Indian Pete, and then Mrs. McGregor, and then Johnny Hones, and then, dearie, your mother."

"Then mother's a deader too," cried the little girl, dropping her face in her pinafore and sobbing bitterly.

"Yes; they all went except you and me. Then I thought there was some chance of water in this direction, so I heaved you on my shoulder and we tramped it together. It don't seem as though we've improved matters. There's an almighty small chance for us now!"

"Do you mean that we are going to die, too?" asked the child, checking her sobs, and raising her tear-stained face.

"I guess that's about the size of it."

"Why didn't you say so before?" she said, laughing gleefully. "You gave me such a fright. Why, of course, now as long as we die we'll be with mother again."

"Yes, you will, dearie."

"And you, too. I'll tell her how awful good you've been. I'll bet she meets us at the door of heaven with a big pitcher of water, and a lot of buckwheat cakes, hot, and toasted on both sides, like Bob and me was fond of. How long will it be first?"

"I don't know—not very long."

The man's eyes were fixed on the northern horizon. In the blue vault of the heaven there appeared three little specks which increased in size every moment, so rapidly did they approach.

They speedily resolved themselves into three large brown birds, which circled over the heads of the two wanderer, and then settled upon some rocks which overlooked them.

They were buzzards, the vultures of the West, whose coming is the forerunner of death.

(To be continued.)

WENT HIM SOME BETTER.

Girl Improved on Excuse Offered by Her Little Brother.

Annie was late, and like a sensible child, she recognized the fact and stopped running. Not so Johnnie. He belonged to the class that never knows when it has enough of either joy or trouble, so he kept up his laborious trot until the school door was reached. There he leaned dejectedly and breathed heavily. Annie eyed him with a scorn that grew as she looked. Later on they stood in the office looking like a set of illustrations for a new version of the "Lives of the Hunted," and Johnny was talking. "I couldn't mean it," he sobbed. "It wuz me big sister Katie's fault. She made me eat three eggs, an' me mudder says I can't hold that much till I'm nine years old, and—" He would have babbled on indefinitely, the tears rolling off his fat, foolish little face, but the principal handed him his admission slip and turned to Annie. That young lady had a passion for acquisition, so without further ado she acquired Johnnie's excuse.

"I ate too many eggs, too, and it made me late," she explained.

"Indeed," said the principal, "and how many did you eat?"

Annie's lips curled scornfully as she remembered Johnny and his miserable little three eggs.

"I ate seventy-four," she replied, blandly.—New York Evening Sun.

What Alligators Eat.

More than once curious things have been found in the stomach of a shark, but never has such an extraordinary collection been found as was discovered recently in the stomach of an alligator. This alligator was killed in the Soudan, and was more than 12 feet in length. In its stomach were discovered eighty-five stones, several birds' claws, two human finger nails and three hoofs of a donkey, to one of which a piece of rope was attached.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Danger from forest fires in Oregon and Washington is now over.

Speaker Henderson declines to accept the nomination for congress in Iowa.

Nicholas Fish, a well known New York banker, met death in a mysterious manner.

Pennsylvania coal operators held a conference, but took no action toward ending the strike.

Mrs. Waggoner, the woman who discovered Merrill's body, has eloped with the convict's brother.

St. Louis authorities are having much trouble with packers on account of bad meat being placed on the market.

The government will supply men to fight forest fires in Colorado and Wyoming, where it has got beyond all control.

The French marine minister made a sensational speech in which he discussed the results of possible wars with Germany, Italy and England.

Rockport, a small town in Kentucky, is in the hands of a drunken mob. Citizens are afraid to ask for outside aid for fear the mob may burn the town.

The mouth of the Columbia river is in very bad condition. A sand bar has formed clear across the entrance and at no place on it is a depth of more than 20 feet to be found at low tide. Four years ago there were 29 feet of water.

Russia is preparing to evacuate Manchuria.

Explorer Peary has been heard from in Labrador.

Senator Thomas R. Bard, of California, is seriously ill.

A heavy frost in Ohio did considerable damage to late crops.

Seventeen men lost their lives by an explosion in a Norfolk, Va., mine.

Fire in coalbunkers at Stockton, Cal., resulted in $200,000 damage.

Yaqui Indians are again causing serious disturbances in Mexico near the border.

A locomotive boiler exploded on the Pennsylvania railway, killing one man and seriously injuring two.

Reports from Pekin say that Boxers are again becoming troublesome in various parts of the empire.

Twenty-five villages have been swept away and 6,000 people drowned by overflowing rivers in India.

Colorado scientists have advanced the idea that many of the forest fires are set by meteors falling in the heavy pine forests.

Crusade against Sisters' schools is again on in France.

New York Republicans have decided to endorse Roosevelt for 1904.

President Roosevelt his invited several senators to confer with him on the tariff question.

Colombian insurgents are waiting for arms, when they will attack the Isthmus of Panama railroad.

The Venezuelan government has offered amnesty to revolutionists who lay down their arms in 40 days.

A conference arranged by Governor Stone to settle the coal miners' strike in Pennsylvania, ended in a failure.

The Colombian government has purchased a steamer at San Francisco, which will be fitted out as a war vessel.

Forest fires throughout the Northwest continue to cause widespread devastation. The property loss will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Vanderbilt and Pennsylvania railway systems have been amalgamated. The new combination will have a capitalization of $2,000,000,000 and a mileage of 30,000 miles.

Every electric line in Ottumwa, Iowa, has been tied up by a strike.

A. R. Shepherd, ex-governor of the District of Columbia, died in Mexico.

The cold wave which struck Colorado has damaged the potato crop to a great extent.

China is disturbed over the determination of Russia to remain in Manchuria.

The Lake woolen mills at Bridgeton, New Jersey, were destroyed by fire. Loss $100,000.

Great Britain has secured an extension of reciprocity treaties pending with the United States.

Mrs. William M. Stewart, wife of Senator Stewart, of Nevada, was killed in an automobile accident in San Francisco.

American generals who have been witnessing the German war maneuvers have started for home.

The Beaumont, Texas, oil fire is under control. The loss will reach $250,000. It was caused by the carelessness of a watchman.

The battleship Oregon, which has been undergoing repairs at the Puget Sound navy yard for the last year, has sailed for San Francisco. It is thought she will be ordered to China.

POACHING MUST CEASE.

Russia Will Take Active Steps to Prevent Sealing on Siberian Coast.

London, Sept. 19. — In a dispatch from Odessa the correspondent of the Standard says the Russian minister of agriculture and state domain, M. Yermiloff, has announced that he has now taken effective measures for the suppression of the systematic poaching operations of Americans and Japanese among the seal and other sea animals on the northeastern coast of Siberia. Although anxious to comply with the reiterated representations of Russia, the Washington and Tokio governments have failed to put an end to this illicit fishing in Russian waters.

M. Yermiloff, continues the correspondent, now gives formal notice that American and Japanese poachers captured within the limits of Russia's maritime jurisdiction on the Siberian coast will be liable to three months' imprisonment, and their ships and cargoes to confiscation. This order will be enforced by three fast gunboats. No discrimination will be made. The commanders and crews of poaching vessels will be subjected to the same punishment. In case of refusal to surrender or attempt to escape, the commanders of the Russian gunboats are empowered to fire upon and sink the sea pirates.

TO ASK FOR STATEHOOD.

Meeting of Governors of Five Indian Territory Tribes.

Guthrie, O. T., Sept. 19. — Pleasant Porter, governor of the Creek Indian nation, has called a meeting of the governors of the Five Civilized Tribes to be held at South McAlester, I. T., on Sept. 26, for the purpose of formulating a general plan for bringing the Indian Territory into statehood at the expiration of tribal government in 1906. Governor Porter says the Indians are opposed to statehood with Oklahoma. The other governors are Mosely, of the Chickasaws; Green McCurtain, of the Choctaws; Buffington, of the Cherokees; and Johnston, of the Seminoles. The meeting will be the most important held on Indian soil, as the five governors will form plans to dissolve their governments to adopt that of the white man.

AMERICANS FEEL SAFER.

Arrival of Warships at Panama Brings a Feeling of Relief.

New York, Sep. 19.—Among American citizens on the isthmus there is now a feeling of relief, as there is now a United States warship at each end of the Panama railroad, cables the Panama correspondent of the Herald. There are no indications of an immediate attack by the revolutinoists.

In a personal interview with Acting General Superintendent Prescott, of the Panama railroad, regarding the application of the decree to natives employed by the corporation, he said that his company is doing everything possible to protect them, and its own property, in accordance with the treaty of 1846, embodying the contract with the Colombian government, and with the assistance of all the employes of the Panama road in attending exclusively to their official duties, company interests will be fully protected. The company's representatives are endeavoring to do whatever they can to facilitate traffic.

Indians in Distress.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 19.—Frederick I. Monser, of San Francisco, the scientist and lecturer, has returned from a six week' exploration and collection trip among the Navajo, Moqui and Pueblo Indians of Arizona. Mr. Monser states that the Navajo tribe, numbering about 20,000 men, women and children, is rapidly approaching the starvation point, and that unless speedy and substantial aid is rendered them fearful distress and great loss of life will result. Continued drouth has caused this state of affairs.

Coal Washery Burned.

Scranton, Pa., Sept. 19.—The Taylor company washery in North Scranton was destroyed by fire, which started at 12:30 o'clock this morning. It is alleged to be of incendiary origin. The watchman declared that he chased four prowlers from the premises just before he discovered the fire. The washery has been in operation for a month. This is the third Scranton washery to be destroyed by fire since the strike began.

Martial Law in Cape Colony.

Cape Town, Sept. 19. — Sir John Gordon Spriggs, prime minister of the colony, has announced, before the house of assembly and in the government Gazette, the repeal of martial law and the proclamation of the peace preservation act, which enables the government to control the possession, importation and registration of all arms and ammunition.

Boxers Surround City.

London, Sept. 19. — Cabling from Shanghai under date of September 17, the correspondent of the Daily Mail says Cheng Tufu is surrounded by 50,000 Boxers, but that their attempts to take the city have so far failed. Without immediate help, however, Cheng Tufu must fall.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of the Past Week—Brief Review of the Growth and Development of Various Industries Throughout Our Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

An effort will be made by the next legislature to cut down the expenses of the state printing office.

The pulp mill near Skamokawa, which was recently destroyed by fire, will be rebuilt at once.

The assessor of Yamhill county places the gross value of all property in that county at $5,125,262.25.

In the trotting race for two-year-olds, at the state fair, Helen Norte reduced the Pacific coast record to 2:26¼.

The office of Indian agent at Umatilla has been abolished and the agency and school placed in charge of a bonded superintendent.

Dallas citizens have voted to enter into a contract for the construction of a new water works system to the extent of $12,000.

The Oregon Woolgrowers' association, in a session at Pendleton, adopted strong resolutions favoring the continuation of the scalp bounty law.

The game law regarding Chinese pheasants has been grossly violated in Linn county, but Game Warden Quimby finds it almost impossible to do anything.

An immense warehouse is being erected at Medford. It is expected to be completed in time to receive the apple crop, the harvesting of which will commence about October 1.

M. P. Isenberg, of Hood River, has been appointed supervisor of the northern and eastern portions of the Cascade forest reserve, to succeed W. H. Dufur, whose appointment was recalled some time ago.

An enormous coal field is being developed in the Blue mountains, near Heppner. Nine distinct veins have been uncovered and the field covers an area of about 12 square miles. The coal is of a very high quality.

Captain H. L. Kelly, of Company A, Third regiment, O. N. G., at Oregon City, has resigned.

Petowya, a Umatilla Indian woman, has just died. She remembered Captain Clark well. She was 113 years old.

Extensive preparations are being made for the carnival and district fair to be held at The Dalles September 30 to October 5.

The fall run of salmon at The Dalles is exceptionally good, the fish being of a large size.

Hoppickers in a number of Willamette valley yards have struck for 50 cents per box. The increase was given in most cases.

The Mt. Angel college opened its 16th year with an attendance that promises well for the coming season. The new stone building to be used by the college is rapidly nearing completion.

Two masked men entered the O. R. & N. depot at North Powder and at the point of a revolver compelled the agent to open the safe. They secured $300, after which the agent was bound and gagged.

All holdings of the Necanicum Spruce Lumber company, including the sawmill, box factory and several thousand acres of timber tributary to the Necanicum and O'Hanna, have been sold to Minneapolis capitalists. The consideration was over $100,000. The company plans extensive improvements.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 61½@62c; bluestem, 64@64½c; valley, 62@64c.

Barley—Feed, $19.00; brewing $20.

Flour—Best grades, $3.05@3 75 per barrel; graham, $2.95@3.20.

Millstuffs — Bran, $17 per ton middlings, $21.50; shorts, $18 chop, $17.

Oats—No.1 white, $1.00; gray, 95@$1.

Hay — Timothy, $10@11; clover $7.50; Oregon wild hay, $5@6 per ton.

Potatoes — Best Burbanks, 60@65c per cental; ordinary, 50@55c per cental, growers prices; sweets, $2.00@2.25 per cental.

Butter—Creamery, 25@27½c; dairy 17½@20c; store, 12½@15c.

Eggs—22½c for Oregon.

Cheese — Full cream, twins, 12½@13c; Young America, 13½@14½c; factory prices, 1@ 1¼c less.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.00@4.00; hens, $4.50@5.50 per dozen, 11@11½c per pound; springs, 11@11½c per pound, $3.00@3.50 per dozen; ducks, $3.00@4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 13@14c, dressed, 15@16c per pound; geese, $4.00@6.00 per dozen.

Mutton—Gross, 2½@3c per pound; dressed, 6c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, 6¼c; dressed, 7@7½c per pound.

Veal—7@8c per pound.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3@3½c; steers, 3½@4½c; dressed, 6@7c per pound.

Hops—16@17c; new crop 20@22c.

Wool—Valley, 12½@15; Eastern Oregon, 8@14½c: mohair, 25@26c pound.

HELP TO FIGHT FIRE.

Governors of Wyoming and Colorado Appeal to Government for Assistance.

Washington, Sept. 18. — Secretary Hitchcock today received dispatches from the governors of Colorado and Wyoming appealing for government assistance in fighting a terrific forest fire that is raging on government timber lands along the Colorado-Wyoming boundary line, near the southeast corner of Carbon county, Wyoming. The secretary will give all aid possible, and to that end at once ordered Supervisor Atherly, of the Crow creek reservation, to assist in fighting the fire reported burning at Pearl, just south of the Medicine Bow forest reserve. They will employ a large number of men to assist in the work. This is the only action the department can take. No request will be made to the war department for assistance.

A new forest fire that stretches over a large area is reported in official advices in the South Platte forest reserve, in Wyoming. Forest Supervisor Michelson and a large force of men are working to extinguish it. The dispatches report that the fire near Saratoga, Wyo., has been brought under control.

In response to a request for information on the situation in Washington, the interior department this afternoon received a telegram from Superintendent Shelter, in charge of the forest reserve tracts in Washington state, saying that two fires were raging over a large area inside the Mount Rainier reserve. The rangers have been fighting these fires since their inception, and extra help has been employed to battle against the flames. The reports show that the big fire near Enumclaw is mostly on private lands, which in recent years have been extensivey lumbered, the mills being mostly located at Tacoma and on the line of the Northern Pacific.

MASSACRED IN THE ORIENT.

Two Englishmen Were Suspected of Poisoning a Spring.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 18. — Details were received by the Empress of India of the massacre of Messrs. Bruce and Lewis at Changte Hunan.

For weeks the cholera has been depopulating the cities along the Yuan river. In Changte people died daily by the score, and from reliable reports, the same can be said of the cities west. The city is built on a hillside, and in the center thereof is a spring from which the people obtain much of their water. This was reported to have been poisoned by the foreigners, and hence the high death rate. One afternoon Mr. Lewis was studying with his teacher, and Mr. Bruce was in his room across te hall, when in an instant the house and street became crowded with people. Mr. Bruce was drawn by his hair out of the room and into the yard where, with clubs, stones, knives, swords and torture he was soon killed. Mr. Lewis and his teacher went out at the back door into the yard and started to climb upon an old shed, when a stroke from a spear brought the former to the ground. With the same instruments, his body was soon mangled beyond recognition. After this the mob destroyed all foreign books and other articles they could not use. The trunks and boxes were broken open, but not any of the poison could be found. When the crowd had almost disappeared, the chihfu arrived. On the same street and a few doors away were stationed soldiers for their protection. A British warship was sent to the scene upon receipt of the news.

WASHINGTON DEMOCRATS.

State Convention Meets in Tacoma and Nominates Ticket.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 17.— The Democratic state convention, after a session lasting until nearly midnight last night, completed its business and adjourned.

The following ticket was nominated by acclamation:

Representatives in congress—George F. Cotterill, of King. Stephen E. Barron, of Okanogan, and O. R. Holcomb.

Judge of supreme court—James R. Reavis, of Yakima.

United States senator—George Turner was indorsed for re-election.

The platform adopted endorses the Kansas City platform, opposes imperialism and colonialism, government by injunction, trusts and trust fostering tariffs, and asset currency. It condemns special privileges given for grazing sheep on government forest reserves, and demands complete exclusion from all American territory of all Chinese, and denounces the Republican majority in congress for "passing the present weak and inadequate law." Abhorrence is expressed of the tragedy that resulted in the death of President McKinley.

The convention declared in favor of a railroad commission to be appointed by the governor first, and subsequently chosen in such manner as the legislature shall determine.

British Soldiers Arrive From India.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 18.—There arrived by the Empress of India today a contingent of 132 non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Horse artillery. These are under the command of Captain R. E. Tilney, the only commissioned officer among them. Among the party are many time expired men, who have seen seven and 12 years' service. After a rest here, they will make the trip across the continent to Montreal and thence to Liverpool.