



# DRIVE OUT SHEEP

## Intent of Central Oregon Cattlemen.

### THOUSANDS ARE SLAIN

#### Conspirator Describes Wanton Killing of Thoroughbreds.

### INDUSTRY IS BEING RUINED

#### One Man Has Already Met His Death; Others Will Not Speak Out for Fear of Meeting a Like Fate.

**PRINEVILLE, Or., Dec. 10.**—(Special correspondence.)—Six thousand head of sheep slaughtered, of an approximate value of \$20,000, without a single indictment from the grand jury, is the record of the past season in Central Oregon. Criminal operations of such magnitude seem serious, and are serious, although one living among the conditions is apt to overlook this phase, for the reason that business interests of all kinds are very badly impregnated with the feeling from one or the other of the viewpoints, and during the past two years sympathy or criticism has been dealt out with caution, and in all cases the ears receiving them must be known.

The feeling becomes more acute as each ranging season opens, and as a result of the continued depredations, many of the sheepmen have found it necessary to dispose of their herds.

#### Examination of the Sheep.

Although the first organized bands of sheepshooters were for the express purpose of protecting the range from so-called outside sheep, their efforts have never been directed at anything but the apparent extermination of home sheep, that all public range could thus be conserved for the individual use of the cattleman, to the exclusion of all other classes of stock.

At different times in the past the cattle interests have been accused of having an organization which has been responsible for these depredations, but each time the answer would come back:

"We are not guilty, and cannot possibly furnish you a clew, unless it is some irresponsible parties who have wantonly killed your stock without cause."

This answer has been a makeshift to herald to the outside world, in lieu of anything more definite, but the past season has demonstrated that such is not the case, but instead it has been proven that the counties of Crook, Lake and Grant are the homes of organized bands of sheepshooters, organized from among representative cattlemen, who co-operate with one another in their depredatory acts.

#### Conspiracy is Widespread.

The Silver Lake shootings of last Spring furnished an example of the distances traveled by some in co-operating with others of the band, when cartridge boxes were found with a Prineville firm's cost mark on them, although the scene of the shooting was 125 miles from here. At that time two affairs followed each other in quick succession, resulting in the slaughter of over 4000 head of sheep, and were probably also responsible for the death of Creed Conn, the Silver Lake merchant, whose definite knowledge of the affair became known and feared through his criticisms.

The writer has been fortunate in getting the story of a sheepshooting affair from a participant, and the fact that it was unsolicited enables him to give it without any qualms of conscience. His story follows:

#### Tale of a Sheep-Shooter.

"About 3 o'clock in the afternoon the scouts that had been posted during the entire day had ascertained that the herder was alone and unarmed, and that we ran no chances in getting possession of his band. This was done by our party, numbering some dozen men, after we had indulged in a few preliminaries, such as firing off our guns and giving vent to a few oaths, just to make the poor cuss stand pat, for if he had attempted to run we would have had to kill him. He was bound and gagged to prevent his getting away and giving the alarm, and was then placed by the side of a tree.

"The band of sheep, numbering about 2000, was then driven to a corral on deeded land, which was done for a double purpose, as we could then shoot without their scattering, and we could also point to the carcasses and say: 'Well, they were on deeded land, and whoever killed them did so merely as an act protecting their own property.' We then knelt with our knees on the ground, that every shot from our 30-30's might take effect in more than one sheep, and thus save ammunition. In this manner more than 1500 sheep were fired, and as a result 1200 sheep were killed.

"Those of the band that succeeded in getting away were without a herder for two days, and many succumbed to the attacks of the coyotes.

"Yes, we had our faces blackened, so that we could not be recognized, and it was a veritable picnic. Had everything our own way from sheep to finish. 'You've d—d right, that sheepman will never get within miles of our range again, that's a cinch.'

#### Not All Cattlemen Implicated.

The shooting described was that in which Morrow & Keenan, of Willow Creek, representative sheepmen of this county, suffered a loss of about 1000 head of thoroughbred sheep, and illustrates the methods pursued by the sheepshooting

crowd. I do not mean to say that all cattlemen are implicated in these affairs, but there are certainly few exceptions. It has been said that when a cattlemen refuses to countenance their acts he incurs their enmity and is rated with a sheepman. Other cattlemen who do not care to run the chances of detection by active participation "show their colors" by contributing cartridges, and sometimes information, thus "working in with the gang."

Such acts are very naturally tending to destroy a legitimate industry of this section that has the full protection of the law the world over, save in a few isolated Western localities. The past season has witnessed over 50,000 sheep of Crook County's total of 200,000 pass into outside hands, and if the attitude of the cattlemen does not change, in another season this number will be more than doubled. In the end, all ranges contested for will pass into the hands of the cattlemen, and, as nearly the whole of Central Oregon's ranging lands come under this head, it means the practical extermination of an industry that has brought more dollars, two to one, into this section than any other two industries. Certainly the ends do not justify the means, but, unless conditions change, what can be done?

C. B. W.

### LARGEST VOTE FOR PRESIDENT Roosevelt Defeated Parker by 2,546,169 Ballots.

**NEW YORK, Dec. 11.**—The Times tomorrow will say: A canvass by the Times of the popular vote at the last Presidential election, complete except as to one county in Tennessee, and four counties in Michigan, where estimates are given, shows that President Roosevelt defeated Judge Parker by 2,546,169. He polled the largest vote ever given a President of the United States, 7,640,560. This is more than 400,000 in excess of the vote cast for McKinley in 1900.

The official figures for Missouri show that Roosevelt carried that state by 25,600. In Maryland one Republican Elector received the largest vote, but his colleagues were defeated. The Democrats of Maryland, therefore, will have seven votes in the Electoral College, while the Republicans will have only one.

A comparison with the vote table of 1900 shows a marked change in the Socialist vote. Debs, the candidate of the party that year, was also this year's candidate, and his vote shows an increase of more than 300,000. Watson, the Populist candidate, ran strongest in his own state, Georgia, where he received 22,635 votes. He received most of his votes in the South and West, but only one vote was cast for him in South Carolina.

The total vote is given as 13,534,119, and that for each of the Presidential candidates is given as follows:

Roosevelt, Republican ..... 7,640,560  
Parker, Democrat ..... 5,094,391  
Debs, Socialist ..... 392,857  
Swallow, Prohibitionist ..... 248,411  
Watson, Populist ..... 124,381  
Corrigan, Socialist Labor ..... 83,519

The electoral vote will be 335 for Roosevelt and 130 for Parker.

#### Gage Has the Rheumatism.

**NEW YORK, Dec. 11.**—Ex-Secretary of the Treasury, Lyman J. Gage is ill at his home in this city. His condition today is such that only intimate friends were admitted to see him. He is suffering from inflammatory rheumatism. It was stated tonight that he is resting comfortably and hoped to be up in a few days.

### CONTENTS OF TODAY'S PAPER

- The Weather.**  
TODAY'S—Cloudy, with occasional rain; southerly winds.
- YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 50 deg.; minimum, 42. Precipitation, 0.73 inch.
- Russo-Japanese War.**  
Russian battleship Sebastopol attacked at entrance to Port Arthur harbor. Page 4.  
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Another Russian fleet announced to be dispatched to the Far East. Page 4.
- National.**  
Postmaster-General Wymen's report shows large increase in free rural delivery. Page 1.  
Secretary Metcalf, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, gives annual report. Page 12.  
Oregon Senators assured of support of rivers and harbors committee. Page 1.  
Vote on the Philippines bill will be taken in the Senate this week. Page 3.  
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- Foreign.**  
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British naval reorganization scheme meets with much favor. Page 4.
- Domestic.**  
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Ocean liners bring stories of heavy passages from Europe. Page 3.  
Four of crew of fishing schooner lose lives on north end of Cape Cod. Page 3.  
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Lawson denies conspiracy and says he is not through with the Standard Oil. Page 1.  
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- The Chadwick Case.**  
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- Pacific Coast.**  
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- Sports.**  
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- Portland and Vicinity.**  
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Bicknell Young addresses large audience on Christian Science. Page 13.  
Visitors to Exposition will be able to follow trail of Lewis and Clark for 300 miles. Page 8.  
Damage suits will be filed against three Deputy Sheriffs today for alleged assault on William Gorman. Page 8.  
Jacob Riis arrives and says he likes the West. Page 12.

# WILL NOT

## Mitchell and Hermann Are Both

### CANNOT BE AT

#### State's Interests

### JUDGÉ IS

#### Statesmen Explain

##### Washington at the

Senator John H. Bellinger is too busy at Washington as witness in case of this week, and notes of regret to Governor, who will probably be in Portland this week, has been heard from until late yesterday. Judge Bellinger is from both of the parties that the press of official prevent their attendance. As it is impossible for Congress to adjourn during the session, the prosecution will be the testimony of Judge Mitchell and Mr. Hermann as follows:

**Hermann**

Hon. C. B. Bellinger, District Court, Portland, has been served upon me in a witness for the Government in the land fraud case. I regret exceedingly to attend. Urgent Oregon before the committees among them the great containing many approved to our whole state understood, will be reported before I could possibly long from this short session and interfere with the public duty as a Representative National matters occur holiday recess. A few your court and testified Government in a case how for trial, but received I was required in the excused from further proceed to my duties for weeks of the Congress involves more work for and for myself than of time in the same personal attendance here this short session.

**Mitchell**

Hon. C. B. Bellinger, Judge, Portland, Or.—My pen was served on me summoning me to attend in the land-fraud case at 10 o'clock A. M. I for me to leave here nor rice of many important sides, should I leave, I my privilege and duty on very many important fore the Senate at an adjournment before the adjournment. From now until the holidays, on December constantly in sessions for rivers and harbors, lighthouses, life-saving offices; also considering appropriation bills, national public and private and matters, general and state and different sections the people are interested. Important departmental different cities of the interested, require constant upon the part of from Oregon. Were they gladly waive my privilege to Portland immediately under these circumstances view of the further falland all last Summer a nor even told by the any one that my testimony land-fraud cases, I feel state and to my constituents to leave my position in due you and prosecution.

**PEOPLE ARE**

**Everything in Real**

**Land Conspiracy**

The prospective jury in the second land-fraud case come to trial before tomorrow morning, at the city, and every day for a long and stubborn It was stated by the close of the first trial about to commence, and Horace McKinley's tractions, would be so and that a week would which to try it. so it is rumored, stand after the prosecution.

S. A. D. Puter, so is the assertion that he little to say as to the fence in the present he could not be beaten first instance, and so engineering on his programme is carried witnesses will be refused the defense to refute testimony of the prosecution that a part of the the defendants themselves presumption comes to the interest of the money for the Government one of the hardest cases.

It is the general opinion be a hard thing to opinion when the fence but owing to the long been dragging since most of the men call attention to it other way.

**The conditions ha**